Dudley
CHRONICLE

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Gas probe at site before building can begin

QUARRY HOMES GET GO-AHEAD

Report by Richard Guttridge

DEVELOPERS will have to investigate issues with underground gas before works can start on transforming a disused quarry into a residential area of more than 280 homes.

FCC Environment has been given the go-ahead to proceed with a 30-year masterplan to fill in the Edwin Richards Quarry at Rowley Regis and build 281 homes on its southern edge.

But the developer has admitted there is work to be done before construction can begin to ensure that the site can be built upon.

Concerns were raised at a meeting of Sandwell Council's planning committee that there were issues surrounding gas emissions from the site.

The quarry has been used for landfill in recent years with household waste having gone into the ground. This will be removed and replaced with soil and non-hazardous materials as part of the development process.

It is hoped the gaping hole that is the quarry will eventually become a green space to be used by residents of the new homes.

FCC Environment said the development would regenerate the land and extend Rowley Regis. Bosses have also said it is not 'practical, sustainable or desirable' to leave the site as it is. But Dave Molland, from FCC Environment, admitted there were problems to be overcome.

He said: "There is a gas issue that has been ongoing for a while and we are in discussions about where the gas is coming from. There will have to be a phase of study on the site to look at the ground conditions and assess gas migration."

Lorries

Mr Molland added: "This application is an outline, the principle of it. There are a lot of details to be finalised and there is a lot more work to do."

A huge waste management facility would be built on the site in order to manage the tens of thousands of tonnes of soil. Some 6,000 tons of materials would be driven to the site in lorries every week. A gas utilisation plant and a waste vehicle depot would also be set up.

The outline plans were approved by councillors after they had visited the 100,000 sq ft quarry ahead of their meeting. Experts at FCC said the quarry poses provides 'health and safety management issues' in its current state.

The homes could be built by the beginning of the next decade but the overall project to fill in the quarry would take up to 30 years.

MUMS URGED TO BLING BUGGIES TO RACE FOR LIFE

Sophie Hansen with baby Scarlet, front, are joined by, from left, Nikki Dalgliesh, Keely Russon, Katie Steventon, Kelly Driver-Fisher and children

DUDLEY mums are being urged to bling their buggies in pink and involve their children in this weekend's Race for Life.

Thousands of women are anticipated to take part in either the 5k or 10k event at Himley Hall on Sunday to raise money for Cancer Research.

Netherton mum Sophie Hansen, aged 22, is taking part with her ten-month-old daughter Scarlet and her mum, Ruth Rosendal Hansen. The three generations will take part in memory of Sophie's nan, Patricia Adams, who died of lung cancer seven years ago.

Sophie, who works at KFC in Halesowen, said: "As a mum, I wanted to support Race for Life so I can play my role in helping beat cancer for future generations.

"A lot of women don't realise that Race for Life is pushchair friendly and walking with a buggy is a great way for new mums to keep fit. What better motivation to start training than knowing you're doing your bit to help beat cancer sooner."

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, in partnership with Tesco, is a non-competitive series of 5k and 10k events which raises millions of pounds every year for research into more than 200 different cancers. Last year more than 3,000 women took part in Race for Life in Dudley and raised £180,000.

Tracey Duffy, Cancer Research UK's Dudley Event Manager, said: "Young people today are the generation who could see ground-breaking treatments and cures for cancer in their lifetime. But we'll only get the knowledge and technology we need to win the war on cancer through research."

Visit www.raceforlife.org or call 0300 123 0770.

VIOLENCE

Woman was attacked as she walked home

POLICE are hunting a sex attacker after a woman was assaulted in Stourbridge as she walked home following a night out.

Police have launched an urgent appeal for information after the 25-year-old woman was attacked in Green Street at around 2.50am on Sunday, June 28.

The woman was walking home when she was approached by a man, described as being in his early 20s with a foreign accent, West Midlands Police said. He followed her for a short distance before pulling her into a car park where he then assaulted her.

FREEDOM

Civic honours for three councillors

THREE councillors with a combined public service spanning more than 120 years are to receive civic honours.

A Dudley Council meeting on Monday will discuss honours for Councillor David Sparks and former Mayors of Dudley councillors David Caunt and Pat Martin.

Former council leaders Councillor Sparks and Mr Caunt would receive the freedom of the borough, and Mrs Martin is set to be made an honorary alderman.

CHARITY

Fun day will raise funds for little Leah

A FUNDRAISING day is being held at a Black Country rugby club to help raise funds for treatment of a five-year-old girl with cerebral palsy.

The Leah's Wish campaign has been set up to raise £35,000 for Leah Davy from Rowley Regis. So far more than £19,500 has come in.

The event at Warley Rugby Club in Tat Bank Road, Oldbury, will run from 11am on Saturday. Admission is free and there will be live music, bouncy castles and live music

Leah, born three months premature at Russells Hall Hospital, is unable to walk.

INSIDE

VANESSA IS A KNOCKOUT

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Up to 900 homes replacing eco park

UP to 900 homes and a supermarket will be built under multi-million pound new plans for a site in Coseley.

Bosses have unveiled new proposals for the 66-acre Coseley Park site, which replaces the former Coseley Eco Park plans at the Bean Road and Wellington industrial estates and Newey Business Park.

Plans were initially put forward for Coseley Eco Park in 2011 and included 200 homes, commercial and retail space.

Planning permission for the scheme was granted in 2012, but stalled after the development partner ran into commercial difficulties.

Since then the site has been shortlisted as one of the UK's first Housing Zones. Now, developers Skelton Group Investments Limited, which owns the site, has drawn up revised plans.

Deliver

Graham Willson, director of Skelton Group Investments, said: "Our new plans will help deliver new sustainable communities and affordable homes that Dudley needs but we want to know what the community thinks."

The new plans will see up to 900 new homes, a public open space and a number of ponds and tree-lined streets. A smaller supermarket than was planned for the Coseley Eco Park development is also included.

People are now being asked to have their say on the new plans before a planning application is submitted. Consultation events will be held today (Thursday) from 3pm to 8pm and tomorrow between 1pm and 6pm at Upper Ground Floor Office, Wellington House, Wellington Industrial Estate, Sangwin Road, Coseley.

Melvyn Mottram, councillor for Coseley East, is to meet the developers in the coming weeks over the revised plans. He said: "I welcome the plans, it is a good idea to bring in new housing for this area."

The masterplan site consists of the Wellington Industrial Estate to the north, the Bean Road Industrial Estate in the centre and the Newey Business Park to the south. The Birmingham New Road runs along the western boundary.

Bank closure will leave customers stranded

A BANK relied upon by a village community is going to close for good in three months' time.

Bosses at Barclay's have confirmed the branch in Zoar Street, Gornal, will shut in October.

The closure will leave customers with a four-mile round trip to the nearest branch in Sedgley. Barclays claim use of the Gornal branch has fallen by half in the past seven years but village leaders say it is frequently busy.

Councillor David Branwood has launched a campaign to save the branch. The Dudley Council member said: "Gornal is a thriving village and is always busy with local people using the shops. Many local people rely on this branch and will find it difficult to travel to another.

"I know there are many customers who do not drive. The bank is in the middle of the village and people have been using it for decades. It is those people who rely on the branch who are most likely to be inconvenienced from having to travel into Sedgley. I will be writing to the Chairman of Barclay's Bank asking him to think again and I would encourage others do the same."

The campaign to stop the closure is being supported by Dudley North MP Ian Austin who is hosting a petition on his website.

Opportunity

Letters have been sent by Barclay's to branch customers telling them of the closure and the banking giant said staff will be given the opportunity to work at a nearby branch.

Raj Dhaliwal, Barclay's community leader for the Black Country said: "The way customers undertake their banking is changing as people increasingly use online, telephone and mobile devices. We must therefore evolve the shape and size of our branch network in response to changing customer behaviour.

"At Barclays Lower Gornal branch, customer usage has declined by 50 per cent since 2008 and over half of our customers regularly use alternative branches, which is why we have taken the difficult decision to close the branch. We hope that the availability of nearby branches, access to services at the Post Office and our range of digital channels will help to ease the transition for our customers."

Vanessa boxing clever for charity

Vanessa Stokes prepares for the ring with Penny Saunders and Joanne Carrier from Vets 4 Pets

VANESSA Stokes is used to caring for sick pets – but when she steps into the ring she becomes a different kind of animal.

The 40-year-old veterinary nurse is preparing for a one-off charity fight, strapping on the gloves for three two-minute rounds.

She has been taking part in a eight-week training programme run by Ultra White Collar Boxing at Wolverhampton Amateur Boxing Club. It culminates with a 'fight night' at Wolverhampton Racecourse on Saturday including 17 matches with 34 boxers.

Vanessa said: "The night itself should be a great event. You get a shirt printed with your boxing nickname and you are asked to select your own entrance music.

"I have gone for the 'The Animal' as my nickname – a combination of my work and the way everyone said I had fought after stepping out of the ring. For the music I have gone for 'Welcome To The Jungle' by Guns n Roses."

Each fighter is raises as much money as they can for charity.

So far Vanessa has secured nearly £300 for Cancer Research having lost her mother, Sylvia Pearson, to lung cancer in 1998.

The father of her partner James has also had a battle with cancer.

Among Vanessa's sponsors and those who will be there at the racecourse on the night cheering her on are colleagues at Vets4Pets in Dudley Port.

Exhibition inspired by a pioneer of industry

AN ART exhibition celebrating the life and achievements of one of the Black Country's characters has opened.

The Dud Dudley Challenge was launched as part of the Black Country Festival. It invited students to create paintings based on the life of Dud Dudley, the illegitimate son of Edward Sutton, the 5th Baron Dudley.

Mr Sutton was a major landowner, mainly in Staffordshire and Worcestershire, and was briefly a member of the House of Commons. His son Dud Dudley was born in 1599 and amongst his achievements was his experiments with coal to replace the dwindling supplies of wood required to make charcoal used in the smelting of iron.

He fought on the side of King Charles I in the English Civil War and escaped from prison under the sentence of death and lived under an assumed name until King Charles II came to power.

Insight

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "As well as offering some wonderful artwork the exhibition provides an insight into one of the borough's more colourful characters, who was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution in the Black Country."

The art exhibition is on show in the Churchill Shopping Centre until July 31. It coincides with the Black Country Festival, which has events running throughout July to mark the official Black Country Day on July 14.

Treasure hunt in town centre

CHILDREN can use their detective skills in a treasure hunt through Dudley town centre.

The free quiz will be available from Dudley Library, Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and online during the summer. It will give children clues which will take them around features in the historic town centre to discover more about Dudley's hidden treasures.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for economic development, said: "This is a free activity that parents can enjoy with their children throughout the summer holidays. It is a fun way to encourage youngsters to get out and about while also discovering interesting features and historical facts about Dudley."

Go online to the website www.discoverdudleyevents.co.uk

Three cars collide in Cradley Heath crash

EMERGENCY services were called to a three-car collision in Cradley Heath.

An Audi, Renault Megane and Vauxhall Astra collided in Halesowen Road at around 6.45pm on Thursday. The male driver of the Audi was treated by paramedics at the scene for a cut to his hand.

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Australian firm selling its half of Merry Hill

QUEENSLAND Investment Corporation is selling its 50 per cent stake in Merry Hill for around £500 million.

The Aussie firm bought its share in the huge shopping complex from former owners Westfield, an Australian shopping centres group, for £524m in February 2007.

The stake is expected to formally come to market later this month and QIC has appointed leading commercial property consultants CBRE to handle the sale.

The shopping centre, now rebranded as intu Merry Hill, is run by Intu Properties, which bought the other 50 per cent stake in March last year for £407.5m from Westfield.

Mike Butterworth, chief operating officer of Intu, said: "We are aware of QIC's plans to sell its half share of intu Merry Hill. The change has no implications for intu's ownership, management or future strategy and we look forward to working with a new investor.

Customers

"Within the centre, for our customers, retailers and restaurants, it is business as usual."

Merry Hill has 1.4m sq ft of retail space on two levels with 214 shop units and a further 3000 sq ft of other retail space. Its 290 stores and shops attracts around 25 million shopping visits each year..

QIC, created in 1991 by the Queensland government, holds numerous other retail assets mainly in Australia.

Council to green light road project

PROPOSALS for a major £6.3 million scheme aimed at easing congestion on a busy route through Dudley is likely to be backed at a meeting on Monday.

Road improvements are due to be carried out along a section of Pensnett High Street, where motorists currently often face delays.

Cash for the project for the A4101 route, which passes Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, will be included in budgets to be rubber-stamped by when Dudley Council's full council meets on Monday.

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership have confirmed a commitment in principle to contributing £3.8m towards the scheme. The remaining £2.5m would be met from grants from central government.

Ringing the Black Country's bells

THERE will be an opportunity to learn church bell ringing in Dudley as part of the Black Country Festival.

A free campanology session is taking place at St Thomas's Church (Top Church) on Saturday, 11am to 2pm.

Landmark pub will be demolished

The King Arthur's fate has divided opinion

A SUPERMARKET chain has been given the go-head to demolish landmark Dudley pub the King Arthur.

The derelict building, beside Birmingham New Road, will be replaced by an Aldi store with 94-space car park.

Opinion has been split over the proposals, with some considering it an eyesore while others sought to protect what they considered an iconic building. But members of Dudley Council's Development Control Committee unanimously voted in favour of demolition.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he was pleased the project, which will create 40 jobs, had been approved. But West Midlands MEP and Sedgley councillor, Bill Etheridge, is concerned about the impact it would have on shops in Priory Road.

The roadhouse pub, built in 1939 by Dudley architects Webb and Gray, closed in 2012.

There was a round of applause from members of the public after Dudley Council's Development Control Committee unanimously agreed to approve the scheme.

Committee chairman Councillor Qadar Zada, said: "The King Arthur has reached the end of its natural life. The pub is in a pathetic state. It is not a true reflection of Dudley. We could sit here and mourn the pub or we can celebrate what might come."

Councillor Etheridge had collected more than 100 signatures in a petition calling for the building to be preserved. He raised concerns about the impact on shops in Priory Road but Councillor Colin Elcock said the Aldi store could benefit those shops by bringing more people to the area.

Danger driver tried to push officer into canal

A POLICE officer almost ended up in a Black Country canal after a high-speed car chase, a judge heard.

When the pursuit continues on foot, Jacob Khan attempted to push him the officer into the water in a bid to escape, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 23-year-old had been driving at double the speed limit but, when he realised his vehicle was going to be caught, he took to his heels.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, explained that officers tried to stop Khan on Birmingham New Road in Dudley on May 5 but he panicked because he had neither insurance nor a valid licence and accelerated away.

He lost control and spun 180 degrees to end up facing the police car which he then drove straight at, clipping the corner of the vehicle before speeding away. The chase continued until Khan abandoned his car in Tipton.

Khan was arrested following a short foot chase with the officers during which he attempted to push one of them into the canal.

Mr Soulsby said: "The officer managed to avoid going into the water after giving the defendant a whack."

He added: "On the night in question it had been raining and the roads were slippery. He had been driving at speeds up to 60mph in a 30mph limit, which was far too far too fast for the conditions."

Chances

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, defending, said Khan, who had no previous convictions, had acted completely out of character and now realised he had a criminal record which would clearly affect his future chances of gaining employment.

The court was told the defendant, who was driving a friend's car, was now working hard to put his life back on track.

Khan, of Himley View, Kingswinford, admitted dangerous driving and having neither insurance nor a licence. He received a six-month jail term suspended under supervision for a year with 100 hours unpaid work. He was also banned from driving for two years and ordered to pay £308 costs.

Judge Amjad Nawaz told him: "You have come very close to going to prison."

Mayor sees what's app-ening

It's an app-y day for Chairman of the Black Country Festival Steve Edwards, Black Country Chamber of Commerce President Ninder Johal, the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho and Freecom International Managing Director Mike Geer

A FREE app has been launched to keep people up-to-speed on this year's Black Country Festival.

The app can be downloaded onto smartphones, and features the latest news and events from the festival, which runs throughout this month.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, visited the home of Freecom Internet Services Ltd at the Waterfront, in Brierley Hill, where the app was created.

Mike Geer, who runs the company, offered to create the app free of charge to support the festival. He said: "We're really pleased with how it's turned out and hope thousands of local people will download it. Dudley Council have supported the festival so we thought it was right the mayor should officially launch the app."

Councillor Waltho said:"The staff at Freecom have been great and it's a tremendous gesture they have created the app free of charge for the community."

Black Country Day is on Tuesday, July 14. The festival's main event is in Dudley Stone Street Square on Saturday and other events on Saturday include Sedgley Fun Day at St Chad's Primary School, Catholic Lane; Wall Heath Summer Fair; Gornal Fun Day at Vale Street Rec; and on Sunday Pensnett Fun Day at The Dell Stadium.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Attacks may be linked, say police

POLICE investigating two late night assaults on men in Dudley that they believe they may be linked.

Officers found a 20-year-old man unconscious in Bluebell Road at around 11.30pm on Monday, June 29. It is thought he could have been struck with a steering wheel lock found nearby. Ten minutes later police found a 19-year-old man with a serious head injury in Haig Road, Kates Hill. Both men were taken to hospital but neither have life-threatening injuries. Anyone with information should call police on 101.

Friend initiative needs more help

VOLUNTEERS are needed to support a befriending service which helps vulnerable people in the Black Country.

The aim of the scheme, developed by Dudley Council's housing support team, is to provide assistance to housing tenants who are lonely, isolated or facing a difficult time.

Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "The befriending service was launched in July 2014 and it has already made a positive impact upon individuals' lives."

Email stayconnected@dudley.gov.uk or call 07827 873394.

Vintage cars to rally at the castle

VINTAGE cars will be rolling into Dudley Castle courtyard for the West Midlands Classic Car Club's annual show next weekend.

The event has taken place at the venue for 26 years and this year's show will be held on July 19. Around 80 machines spanning nine decades will be in the line-up. Organiser Maurice Cole said: "The show at the castle is always a special event and we're really looking forward to making this year's another date to remember."

Man fell onto tracks at town's rail station

A MAN was taken to hospital after falling onto the tracks at a Stourbridge rail station.

Paramedics were called to treat the man who fell near the platform at Stourbridge Town station at 10am on Friday

The man, aged in his 50s, was treated for hip and back pain before being taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

Services on the Stourbridge Shuttle service were disrupted for the rest of the morning.

Strummer listening

KINGSWINFORD and District Strummers will be performing tunes on their ukeleles at a coffee morning in aid of the Friends of Kingswinford and Wordsley Library.

The event is at Wordsley Library, Wordsley Green, on Thursday, July 16, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

SUMMER: The season when, having spent nine months waiting for a few hot days, you remember you don't really like hot days.

A READER may have solved the two biggest problems facing Europe, African refugees and Greek debt. He writes: "Why not combine the two? Write off the interest repayments and in return Greece finds a home for all the migrants and refugees that no other member states can accommodate. The population growth and house-building boom will stimulate their economy and they will grow their way back to economic fitness."

MEANWHILE, is anyone considering a scheme for British families to sponsor Greek families? There is tremendous sympathy towards ordinary Greek people. A hundred quid a month may not be a lot to some UK families but it would be manna from heaven for a cash-strapped family in Athens or Corfu. After the First World War, British towns and cities adopted war-wrecked towns in France and Flanders to help in their recovery. Politicians and bankers clearly haven't a clue how to get Greece back on its feet. Maybe it's time for the ordinary people of Europe to have a go.

TV subtitles which are produced instantaneously for news bulletins are a rich source of merriment. But when the sub-titlers have all the time in the world, there's no excuse for getting it wrong. I am currently ploughing through the box set of the fine Gillian Anderson thriller The Fall (BBC), set in Belfast. The subtitles refer to those well-known villains, the "distant Republicans." Dissident, as it turns out.

FROM the instructions for my new battery charger: "The charger have different pilot lamp of different quantity. The mo brightness of pilot lamp lighting the less electric quantity is, and meed to be charged, during charging." Which translates roughly as stand well back and switch it on with a long stick.

WOMEN in Japan are reportedly flocking to a zoo to see Shabani, an 18-year-old silverback gorilla who has been likened to a male model with "brooding good looks." I have a blind friend who has just received a new guide dog, a flat-coat retriever which is a similar hit with the ladies. One female admirer sighed: "If that dog was human, he'd be Poldark."

LOOKS like the hot spell caught the supermarkets by surprise. Waitrose crumpets, the perfect winter-night treat, were knocked down to 19p for eight. Nice, hot crumpets dripping with melted butter, anyone? Thought not.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Tributes to nurse killed in road accident

TRIBUTES have been paid to a hospital nurse who died after being thrown from his motorbike in a crash on his way to work in Dudley.

Christian Hugh Davies – known as Hugh – was hailed as 'caring and courageous'.

The 50-year-old died after his Honda was involved in a collision with a white van, around a mile from Russells Hall Hospital where he worked.

The crash happened on Pedmore Road at the junction with The Gateway just before 7pm on June 30 and police are appealing for witnesses.

Tributes have been paid to Mr Davies, a charge nurse who had worked at the hospital since 1991. His partner Julie Adams said: "Hugh is the love of my life, my best friend and my soul mate. He is the best thing that ever happened to me and made me laugh every day." Mr Davies' daughter Tanaya, 19, described her dad as her hero and said that he was 'a caring, courageous and very cheeky man'.

Mr Davies lived in Amblecote having grown up in Kingswinford. It is understood staff across the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust were observing a minute's silence in his memory. A book of condolence had been opened at the hospital.

The driver of the van was spoken to at the scene. Anyone who witnessed the collision is urged to call Sgt Alan Wood on 101.

Hugh Davies

Parking chaos fear over staff move to new base

by Robert Cox

NINETY-ONE council workers are moving to offices in Wordsley – sparking fears of parking chaos in neighbouring streets.

Community leaders have raised concerns about the move of staff from Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park agreed by council bosses.

Wordsley councillor Derrick Hemingsley believes there are not enough spaces at the Mere Centre in Lawnswood Road and staff would be forced to find alternative parking in nearby roads. He fears this would deter disabled users of nearby Richardson Hall from using the facility.

He said: "Dudley Council say there are 75 car parking spaces at the Mere Centre but I believe a more realistic figure is that there are only 45 to 50 spaces.

"My concern is that the children services staff would have no other option but to park across the road in the spaces provided in Wordsley Green."

There are also concerns over the impact on those using nearby Wordsley Community Centre, many of them pensioners. Its chairwoman, Janet Blakeway, said: "I am terribly concerned by the plan to move so many staff here. We already have a terrible parking problem and our members struggle to park as it is."

Complaints

The move was brought about after complaints the council workers were clogging up parking spaces that should be used by visitors to Mary Stevens Park.

Stourbridge MP Margot James launched a petition, signed by almost 450 people, calling for the council to find a long-term solution to the problem.

Dudley Council agreed to find an alternative site after the Charity Commission launched an investigation. A total of 91 of 200 workers based at the park will move to the Mere Centre. The switch is part of a wider scheme to save cash and make better use of space.

Picnic to mark chainmakers' festival

Preparing for the festival are, from left, Vicki Smith , Tim Tolkien and Fran Wilde

A BOSTIN' picnic will be offering visitors to this year's Women Chainmakers' Festival plenty to 'ate'.

Cradley Heath Creative is calling for people to bring along a favourite dish to share with others as part of the community event on Sunday.

The group will be in their newly purchased Oss Box, a 70's horse trailer that they are transforming into a mobile arts venue. This year's Women Chainmakers' Festival is the Oss Box's first outing.

Vicki Smith of Cradley Heath Creative said: "Our idea is that people share food that is memorable or means a lot to them. I'll be bringing tinned peaches and evaporated milk, a real strong memory of family Sunday afternoons. There'll be cutlery and plates available, just dish up your dishes.

"Its really good to be part of the Women Chainmakers' Festival again, especially now it's moved to Cradley Heath High Street.

"On the day there is music, theatre, comedy, headlined by Black Country comedy group, The Fizzogs, and plenty of family fun."

The event used to be held at the Black Country Living Museum.

The festival marks the 1910 strike when the women chainmakers of Cradley Heath, led by trade unionist Mary MacArthur, held out for ten weeks to secure better wages for women. Their struggle paved the way for the minimum wage.

The event is being held from 11am until 6pm and involves music, street theatre and speeches.

MP calls on companies to improve placements

A BLACK Country MP has called on firms to offer improved work experience placements to pupils.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who was recently chosen by Labour to sit on the Education Select Committee, has called for 'radical action' to improve standards in Black Country schools. He said the area lags behind national standards in basic numeracy and literacy.

Mr Austin said: "We need to make education our number one priority because the only way we'll attract the new investment and jobs on which the area's prosperity depends is by having the skills new industries need.

"This is a huge problem and we all have to work together to solve it."

He added: "I want every Black Country business to work with schools and offer work placements so youngsters can see you only succeed through hard work.

"The whole community has to make a commitment to having the sharpest improvement in school standards in the country."

Mr Austin called for every business in the region to get in partnership with local schools to teach young people more about the world of work.

He stressed that 'proper' work experience placements were needed, particularly in manufacturing and engineering companies, hi-tech businesses, law, banks and professional services companies.

The MP was speaking at a conference hosted by the Black Country Training Group.

Neds will see old Civic off in style

WOLVERHAMPTON Civic Hall will host one last legendary gig before it closes for £10 million refurbishment which could last up to 18 months.

Black Country indie rock band Ned's Atomic Dustbin will returning to the scene of some of their most famous gigs to launch their Kill Your Television Festival. It will seen the Stourbridge band perform along with a yet-to-be-announced line-up on December 19.

Lead singer Jonn Penney said: "There is no similar sized venue to equal the Civic right now, let alone the venue it will be when it re-opens, so we're honoured to be shutting the place down in style – to be ending one amazing era and, at the same time, setting ourselves and the venue off into a whole new era."

Summer display and 40s nostalgia at cone

A SUMMER exhibition is being staged in the showcase gallery at Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley until September 13.

The glass heritage attraction in High Street will host a 1940s weekend on July 25 and 26.

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Council pay funeral bill for victims of terrorist

THE funerals of three generations of a Black Country family murdered in the Tunisia terror attack will be paid for by Sandwell Council.

The gesture comes after Walsall Football Club revealed it is to place three permanent memorials at Banks's Stadium in tribute to the three Saddlers fans – Adrian Evans, his father Patrick Evans and nephew Joel Richards.

Sandwell council leader Darren Cooper revealed that the authority would cover burial fees and other funeral costs for the victims. Adrian Evans, who lived in Bilston, worked for Sandwell Council for more than 30 years. Councillor Cooper said it was 'the least we could do'. The move is expected to save the family around £5,000.

He said: "We have spoken to the funeral directors and it has been agreed between the council and the Co-operative to waive the fees for the burial and the funeral for the family."

The funerals are expected to take place in the next few weeks. The three family members were among 30 British holidaymakers shot dead by a gunman on a beach in Sousse.

More than 2,000 people observed a minute's silence for 19-year-old Joel, Patrick, aged 78, both from Wednesbury, and Adrian, 49, at the council house in Oldbury on Friday, as did thousands across the country at 11am. A service was held at Walsall Banks's Stadium, attended by Joel's brother Owen Richards, 16, who survived the attack, and his mother Suzanne.

Health bosses hold meeting in public

HEALTH chiefs are inviting members of the public to attend their latest public meeting.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group will be discussing a range of issues about healthcare.

The board meeting will be held on Thursday at Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre, Venture Way, from 1pm to 4pm.

Board papers are available to view at www.dudleyccg.nhs.uk

Paul Maubach, accountable officer for the CCG, said: "It is really important that the public are able to see how we make decisions on their behalf on health issues and that our local community are able to express their views. These meetings are one of many opportunities to do this."

Dudley Mayor to open church fair

A CHURCH in Dudley is holding its summer fair on Saturday. St Mark's Church, in Vicarage Lane, Pensnett, hosts the event from 1pm. It will be opened Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho. Entrance is 25p.

Mugger made victim kiss his shoes

Robber — Thomas Rose

A PROLIFIC mugger who humiliated a 15-year-old victim by forcing him to kiss his shoes after robbing him has been locked up for four years and eight months.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Thomas Rose, aged 18, already had an 'appalling' record of offending when he struck twice in the space of two days in and around Dudley bus station in March.

Rose, a father, of Sidwick Crescent, Ettingshall, had chalked up 11 convictions for 24 offences over a four-year period before he robbed the 15-year-old boy he had threatened to stab on March 21, taking his mobile phone and £3 cash.

In an incident on the following day, Rose brandished a knife when he robbed a 17-year-old youth of his mobile phone.

Miss Fiona Cortese, prosecuting, said that Rose had not only threatened to stab the first victim, who subsequently gave up the cash and phone, but he was forced to kiss Rose's shoes.

Knifepoint

Father-of-one Rose – who has another child on the way – struck again at the bus station the following day, holding up another teenager at knifepoint and making off with his phone.

Rose was arrested after he had been spotted by police on CCTV taken from the bus station.

Mr Christopher O'Gorman, defending, said: "He has had a turbulent upbringing, to say the least. He has accrued the sort of record of offending for someone 10 years older. The time has come now, with his partner expecting his second child, for him to realise that if he wants to spend any time with his children he's going to have to change his ways."

Rose admitted two counts of robbery. Judge Amjad Nawaz sent him to a Young Offenders Institution for 56 months.

College facing challenge after 50 redundancies

A COLLEGE boss has admitted they face a 'challenging' period after it was revealed that around 50 staff at Birmingham Metropolitan College will be made redundant.

The college, which has sites in Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Great Barr and Kidderminster, announced in April that up to 250 jobs could be axed due to a reduction in funding. But bosses had hoped to cut the posts through voluntary redundancies.

Andrew Cleaves, Principal and CEO at the college, said: "We have had a good response to our voluntary severance programme and will deliver most of our targeted savings through this scheme. Unfortunately, we will need to make around 50 people redundant across the college.

"We are consulting further with staff to minimise the impact wherever possible.

"As part of our efficiency programme, we are working closely with our key funding partners, including the Skills Funding Agency, who are supporting us through this challenging period."

The college currently has 1,600 staff across its sites but funding has been cut by a third in recent years. Earlier this year the college officially unveiled a £5 million makeover of the Stourbridge site.

Mr Cleaves has vowed that current students will not be affected by the job losses and said they were aiming to continue to offer the same range of courses.

It is not yet known exactly how many posts will go at Stourbridge's Hagley Road site, Brierley Hill's Art and Design Centre and Advanced Technology Centre, Kidderminster Academy or the James Watt campus in Great Barr.

Improvements

The news comes weeks after Ofsted inspectors urged the college to make improvements.

Inspectors said too few students achieved their qualifications, especially in English and maths. They claimed attendance to some lessons was poor. But the report did highlight a series of strengths, saying teaching, learning and assessment were outstanding in manufacturing technology apprenticeships.

Wollaston and Stourbridge Councillor Nicolas Barlow said: "It is a shame when they have spent so much money on the new building and now have to make 50 people redundant."

Buskers strum up a world record

Steve Henley and James Stevens, of The Empty Can, busk beside the statue of Duncan Edwards in Dudley

THE Black Country Festival has got off with a bang with award-winning band The Empty Can braving the scorching weather last week to smash the world record for the longest musical busk.

The band, who penned Black Country anthem, I Vow Thee Black Country, performed for a mammoth 24 hours and 30 minutes in temperatures topping 29C in Dudley town centre.

The attempt on the world record, carried out by lead singer James Stevens and guitarist Steve Henley, was watched by crowds while other local musicans joined in during the marathon stint.

James, who is also one of the organisers of the Black Country Festival, said: "It feels great to have achieved something so amazing but it was really hard going.

"The hot weather was unbearable but the people we had here to support us throughout the day and night was incredible."

The music marathon also raised money for homeless charity Black Country YMCA.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council, said: "What an amazing achievement, well done to James and the Empty Can for their incredible efforts.

"What a great way to get the Black Country Festival underway."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drop-in event for potential tenants

PEOPLE looking to rent flats with two or more bedrooms in the Brierley Hill area can attend a drop-in event.

Dudley Council has a number of one, two and three bedroom properties available to rent on the Chapel Street estate.

They are suitable for young single people, couples and families and rent starts from £61 per week.

Interested families can visit the Chapel Street housing office in Lower Derry Street, Brierley Hill, on Tuesday, July 21, from 9am until 12.30pm or call (01384) 815100.

Students briefed by law career talk

TWO solicitors spoke to students during a careers day at a school in Halesowen.

Windsor High School and Sixth Form holds a series of Reaching your Dreams seminars for students to provide inspiration for jobs.

Lauren Hartigan-Pritchard and Stefania Fulford, both of Thursfields Solicitors, talked about how go about obtaining a career in law during the most recent event at the school.

Windsor High School's training manager Alison Halford said: "Students found it really useful."

Education role for Labour MP

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has been chosen by Labour to sit on an influential education committee.

The Education Select Committee scrutinises the work of the Department for Education and its ministers. It covers issues such as early years support for families, school standards, apprenticeships and training.

Mr Austin said: "I'll be using my place on the committee to push for sharp improvements in school results in places like Dudley."

Black Country author talks about her novels

A BLACK Country author will be talking about her latest novel set in the region at a Dudley library.

Anna Lawrence Pietroni, originally from Halesowen, will be giving the free talk in Netherton Library, Northfield Road, on Thursday, July 16, at 10.30am.

Her first novel Ruby's Spoon, set on the Black Country canals, was published in 2010. The writer, who lectures at Birmingham City University, is working on two further novels.

Bark in the park show

A FUN dog show in aid of the charity Hearing Dogs for the Deaf is being held at a country park near Sedgley.

The event at Baggeridge Country Park on Saturday will run from 11am to 3.30pm. It will include competitions for agility and obedience. Entries will be accepted on the day.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Good time to serve up bad news in budget?

ON Wednesday, as the nation becomes engulfed in Ashes fever, and while tennis fans watch some strange little tournament down in London, the Chancellor will deliver what is widely expected to be one of this toughest budgets to date. Maybe my years in this job have made me cynical. But wouldn't it be a splendid day to bury bad news?

❒❒❒❒❒

TEN years ago this week, we had the radio on in the office when it was announced London would host the 2012 Olympic Games. A very bright young girl who was on work experience at the time asked if this would put Britain at risk of terrorism. "No chance, it's seven years away, the terror threat will be long over by then," was more or less what I said in reply. How stupid those words seem now.

❒❒❒❒❒

IN his own inimitable and respectful style, armchair revolutionary Russell Brand declared that the Tunisian massacre was all David Cameron's fault, and that the minute's silence held in honour of the victims was 'complete bullshine'. Only in slightly different terminology.

Well Russell, my old son, what I suggest is that you choose what you consider a more worthy cause, something dear to your heart. It can be anything, global capitalism, multinationalism, the soaring cost of burlesque outfits, whatever you like. And then observe a period of silence in recognition of it. More than a minute's silence, I suggest. Two or three years should do the trick.

❒❒❒❒❒

ALL of two days of sunshine, and the moaners were out in force. The unions started banging on about temperatures in the workplace, the rail companies warning about bending tracks, it's amazing the schools didn't jump onto the bandwagon and say it is too hot for the kids. Two days, that's all we had before it started raining. Stop complaining and enjoy it.

❒❒❒❒❒

OF course summer also means the festival season is upon us, where thousands of students and ageing hippies show their disdain for materialism and capitalism by paying 70 quid or more to giant multinationals to camp in a field for two days listening to bands nobody has heard of.

It looks as though they took it a bit further in Flaxley, Gloucestershire, where around 500 free-love fans attended a giant wife-swapping festival. Apparently, one or two of the neighbours were a bit perturbed, particularly one who found a gatecrasher climbing over his fence. The banners declaring 'three is the magic number' and the sex-toy trade stands raised one or two eyebrows as well.

The event was called Swingfields. I wonder how many people would have thought this was a Glenn Miller festival?

George, aged 18, seen during pilot training in the United States

The official unveiling of the plaque telling George's story

Final resting place, the young pilot's grave in Caligny

French village tribute to heroic pilot George

A community in Normandy has shown its respect at the grave of a brave pilot for 70 years, **ROBERT COX** reports

AMID the atrocities of war are stories of remarkable human kindness.

Among them is the heart-warming tale of the determination of a French community to honour an RAF pilot from Kinver, who died when his plane was shot down over their rural hamlet in Normandy.

Pilot Officer George Boucher was aged just 21 when he was shot down on August 5, 1944, crash landing near Caligny, which has a population of fewer than 1,000 people.

Among them was Claude Pailleux. He went immediately to the wreck, which had been surrounded, he later recalled, by around 100 German soldiers.

After a long process of negotiation, and at the risk of reprisal, he convinced them to let him take the body for burial.

In a 1946 letter, Claude wrote: "The plane came down in flames in a field of beetroot. The pilot however had time to jump by parachute, but without doubt too near the ground, for it had hardly opened. On the morrow – Sunday – we were able to make him a coffin of oak by a local carpenter to bury him worthily.

Liberated

"We buried him at the foot of a little shrine at the edge of a highway in the hamlet of Caligny. Around 100 people were present at the funeral at 3pm in the afternoon.

"He was buried in a shroud and a score or so of wreaths were placed there. He was therefore buried with all the respect due to his courage."

Caligny was liberated by the 11th British Armoured Division on August 16, 11 days after George was killed.

In the letter to George's parents, Claude promised them he would take care of George's grave, a promise which the Pailleux family and their community have kept ever since.

This was in keeping with the wish of George's mother that her son's remains should stay where they were buried in Caligny rather than being transferred to a military cemetery.

Heroes of the air — George Boucher, from Kinver, is pictured fourth from the left, with his fellow airmen in the RAF 174 Squadron

A close friendship has since grown between the two families. The Boucher family first visited George's grave in the 1960s and have been travelling to the area regularly since.

This culminated last month in the unveiling of a memorial plaque, telling George's story, on the wall of the chapel next to his grave.

The plaque includes details of his remarkable military career and how the insistence of a Frenchman ensured he got a dignified burial.

Nearly two years earlier, in October 1943, George had made a forced landing in northern France, in the Pas-de-Calais region, after his plane was damaged while attacking a train in occupied territory.

In a letter he explained how he was saved by the French Resistance, so he could return home to continue the war against the Nazis.

He wrote about the aftermath of that crash landing, explaining: "I ran on to a road, on which was a Frenchman in a cart. I had learned French at school and spoke to him. He said he could not help me but told me to hide in the hedge.

"About an hour after the crash three German soldiers arrived and mounted guard over the aircraft, and I learned afterwards that two lorries loaded with soldiers went round the roads in the district."

With the help of the French Resistance, George avoided capture and survived a long and hazardous journey through France to neutral Spain, returning to England to fly again.

The plaque was paid for after the Boucher family managed to raise £1,655 in donations from family and friends. George's nephew, Mike Boucher, travelled to the unveiling ceremony with brother David and those who had helped with the appeal.

He said: "The ceremony itself was a wonderful occasion but, as I said in my address on the day, the grave has been tended ever since George was buried in 1944. Claude Pailleux's widow is still alive. We sort of grew up with her family.

"The grave is very unusual in that it is on its own and people may get the feeling it is forgotten but it is not. It is a wonderful story associated with it."

Mr Boucher, who is the assistant headteacher at Summerhill School in Kingswinford, says his family are immensely grateful to those from the French Resistance who helped George and, of course, to the people of Caligny.

He added: "For Claude to have negotiated a burial with German soldiers in the middle of the Normandy campaign takes some doing. His sister Jacqueline later became the prime carer for the grave for 30 or 40 years. Then the mayor of Caligny gave the promise the community would always look after the grave, which has been kept by all the mayors since."

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We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

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Don't blame store for poor parking plan

A PLANNING decision taken by Dudley councillors has come up with a result. Unfortunately, the result is that Stourbridge now has a town hall, library and leisure centre marooned with totally inadequate parking.

A year or two ago, councillors decided to're-vitalise' our town by giving permission for a nearby pay- to-park facility to be demolished and replaced by a giant Tesco store. Presumably thinking that local folks could simply leave theirs motors at Tesco and head off to enjoy a show in the town hall or have a jolly time at the leisure centre.

Tesco have quite reasonably reduced free parking under their newly built store to just two hours. These same councillors are now expressing their 'disappointment', huffing and puffing though there is nothing much that they can about it.

After struggling to park elsewhere, and probably annoying residents by blocking up their streets, it's inevitable that the good citizens of the Stourbridge area will give up and footfall to all three of our important civic facilities will decline. Forgetting that these facilities were built for the benefit of the community, our elected councillors will then declare them no longer financially viable. — here's a good excuse to have a few less buildings to worry about — and closing them all down.

Before this happens, I challenge our councillors to come up with a fit-for-purpose solution to a problem of their own making. I challenge them to implement a solution that won't lead to our historic market town becoming just another fun loving 're-vitalised' charity shop centre.

G SMITH
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Not a Lotto point in carrying on

REGARDING the forthcoming changes to Lotto. They must think we are stupid to believe that the new changes will be for the better.

They say that the overall odds of winning a prize will be 1 in 9.3 compared to current odds of 1 in 54. I'm sorry but the new projected odds includes the free lotto ticket prize for matching 2 numbers , which really isn't a prize when you consider how difficult it will be to win a prize.

I have played Lotto since it started but feel enough is enough and will no longer participate. I also feel sorry for players who keep the same numbers every week but will be reluctant to change them to incorporate the additional 10 new numbers.

The only people who are going to benefit will be the Lotto organisers who will be paying out less in prize money because there will be fewer winners.

R EDWARDS
Kingswinford

Healthy enthusiasm for a euphemism

SICKNESS has been abolished, it is no more. Humankind can rejoice! And what medical breakthrough has brought about this utopian dream? It has nothing to do with medicine at all. Sickness, disease, malaise, call it what you will, has finally been defeated by certain local authorities through the machinations of middle management and human resources.

No longer are we sick or ill but merely 'absent'. We no longer feel pain, discomfort, fatigue or distress — we merely inconvenience our employers by, for no apparent reason, absenting ourselves from our place of work.

So no more need for the cumbersome, weighty and expensive NHS. The medical profession has been eclipsed by the altogether more streamlined and efficient power of the 'absence management' movement. No blood or drugs for them, nor indeed any years of pointless expensive training. No, to defeat illness and sickness one only has to call it by another name, that name being 'absence', implying both absence of illness as well as absence from the workplace. Not since Orwell abolished 'hatred' by calling it 'love' has language been so effective and, in this case, so efficacious!

A JONES
Halesowen

Heart of the problem is in France

DO the French want us to take back Calais? Legend has it that Bloody Mary, one of our favourite rulers, railed on being told that the French had stolen the last English possession on the continent:

'Damn it! When I'm dead and opened, you will find Calais written on my heart.'

Judging by the constant chaos in that city, may bewe should offer to take it off their hands and run it in a manner not reminiscent of some Third World country.

The mayor is often seen on TV, blaming Les Roast Boeuf for creating the problem and wanting more of our cash and police, so why not go the whole way? This is me being mischievous but it's quite obvious that the level of unrest dictates that the army should be called in. This is a French problem and the French should sort it out. They want free movement of labour and boy have they got it.

A M ETHERIDGE
Sedgley

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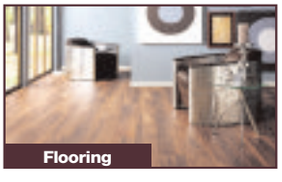

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Police recover massive haul of stolen property

Detective Constable Gary Thompson with stolen gardening equipment worth thousands of pounds on show

FROM power tools to watches — more than 100 stolen goods worth over £50,000 have been recovered in the Black Country.

A range of items were seized by police from an address in Coseley.

Bilston Police Station was turned into an Aladdin's Cave at the weekend when victims of crime were invited to see the haul which included chainsaws, Rolex watches and collection of coins dating from the 1920s onwards.

More than 30 items were handed back to rightful owners who were able to show their crime reference number.

One of those to get equipment back was Keith Humphries from Continental Landscapes in Willenhall. The grounds maintenance team have had a range of items stolen while on site, up to 15 in one month with thieves smashing van windows to get access. The contract supervisor was able to recover a £400 leaf blower.

The goods were seized from the shed and garage of an address in Coseley.

A man in his 30s has been arrested on suspicion of handling stolen goods.

DC Thompson with recovered watches

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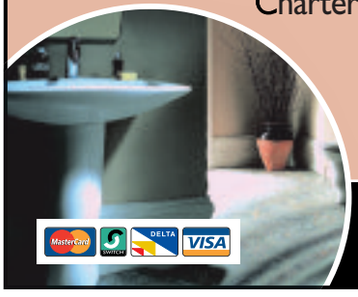

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Volunteering abroad gives rise to talk

Bilbrook WI

THE meeting was opened by president Julie Hammersley who welcomed members and visitors and then gave out information on the funeral arrangements for well-respected member Margaret Crofts.

Following the notices, treasurer Ann was called upon to give a report on her recent visit to the Royal Albert Hall to attend the WI Centenary AGM. in the presence of the Queen.

Ann said the whole day had been a wonderful experience.

Three members also enjoyed the experience of spending the day in Codsall Council offices to see the AGM on TV Live and enjoyed lunch which included strawberries and Bucks Fizz.

Speaker for the month was Di Tordoff, wife of David who came in April to deliver a talk on being a Dementia Friend.

Di's talk was on volunteering abroad. Wondering what to do to give something back to others, they had the chance to visit Vietnam when their son married a Vietnamese lady. That was the start.

All the countries they visited need volunteers for various organisations including animal and environment agencies. Di's talk was accompanied by photographs from endangered animals of the various regions to the colourful national costumes that some people wore every day.

Ann gave a vote of thanks and this was followed by refreshments and raffle.

Cheque presented

Sedgley and Wombourne Inner Wheel

A cheque was presented for £500 to St Anthony's Cheshire Home. President Mary Rowley, past president Doreen Pike, the home manager and residents are pictured at the handover. A cheque for the same amount was also presented to High Flyers, Wombourne

Bid to form a new guild

West Mids Federation

WEST Midlands Federation would like to invite all interested ladies in Gornal and surrounding areas to a coffee morning at Zoar Methodist Church Hall, on Thursday, July 16, between 10.30am and noon.

The aim is to assess the possibilities of establishing a new Townswomen's Guild within this area.

Outings are regularly arranged throughout the year to include theatre trips and visits to places of interest. They also enjoy lunches and an annual dinner plus a wide variety of interesting speakers each month.

The Federation organises several events throughout the year to which all guild members are invited.

Colourful discussion follows presentation

Coven WI

THE president welcomed everyone to the June meeting and, after Jerusalem was sung, brought everyone up to date with events around the county.

Once all the formal business was concluded, the ladies welcomed Sue Langley who presented The Glory of Colour.

Sue's journey with colour began in New Zealand in 1992 when she connected with a couple who practised colour therapy. The group learned that all colours emanate from the white light of the sun, white being a carrier of colours and she told of chemicals and metals that omit specific colours.

Sue explained that each colour has a significant meaning, for example, red conveys energy, green self-healing and yellow for knowledge and mental activity.

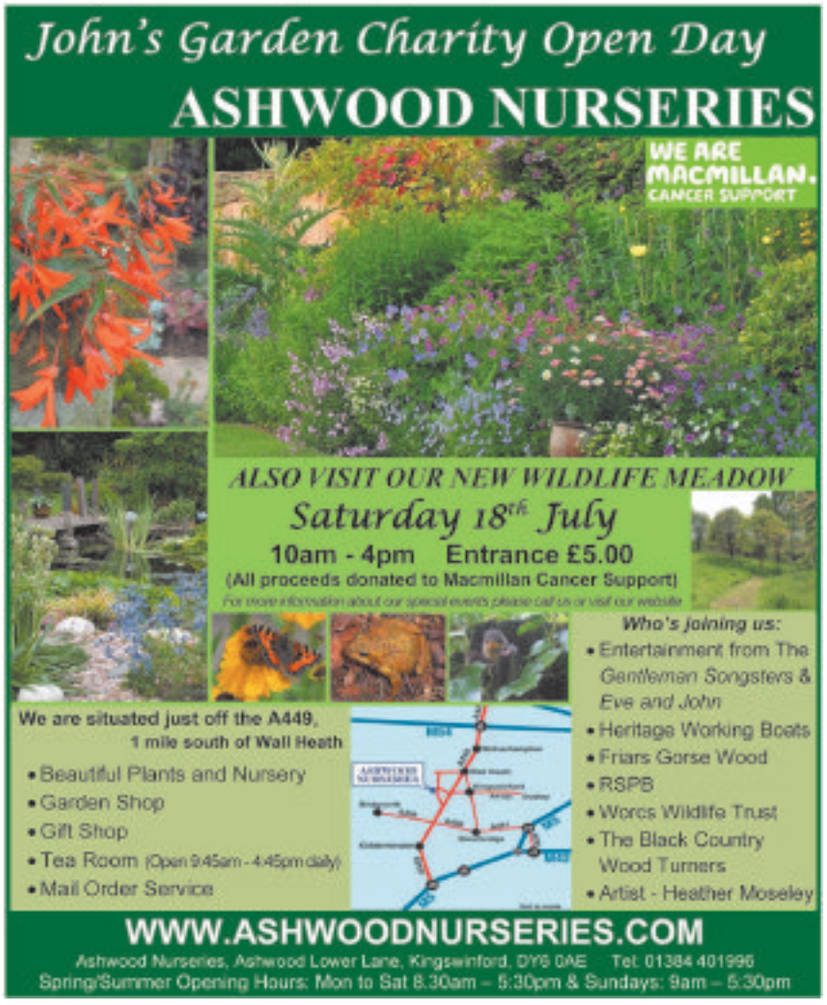
Everyone participated in the interactive part of the presentation and discussed their choice of coloured garments.

Sue gave much food for thought and at the end of her presentation she handed out comprehensive sheets of her presentation including scientific facts of her findings.

The meeting was continued with refreshments, a raffle was drawn and the competition of the colourful scarf judged. Jo came first and Doreen second.

The next meeting is on July 14 when Judy Hubble will presents Patrick Lichfield and History of Shugborough House and Gardens.

New members will be given a warm welcome. Call 01902 790222 for more details.



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Anti-bully message from town's pop star

AFTER a whirlwind few years in the spotlight a Black Country pop princess has made her way back home as part of a national anti-bullying campaign.

Beth Sherburn was at Tettenhall College on Friday as part of a UK campaign that raises awareness of cyber bullying, and has been visiting schools throughout the county.

Beth, who hails from Gornal, recently toured with The Saturdays and has teamed up with US rap star Lil Wayne for her first international single Joker.

Using her fame to visit schools to speak to youngsters about the potential dangers of the internet, she also sang as part of a special assembly and held a question and answer and autograph session afterwards.

Dangers

Headmaster David Williams said: "We were delighted that Beth could come to Tettenhall College to talk to us about the dangers of online bullying. She spoke very passionately about the subject and delivered a very serious message in an extremely engaging way."

It has been a meteoric rise for Beth since being discovered singing while she worked behind the perfume counter at Debenhams at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

She caught the attention of John McLaughlin — the man behind Take That, Girls Aloud and Busted — while singing Michael Bublé hit Christmas to herself in November 2012. It was a fairytale story, as she quit her job to sign a record deal and within weeks was achieving chart success with her debut single, a cover of Duran Duran's Ordinary World, in the UK Club charts.

She recently completed the video for Joker in Ibiza and has also supported pop stars including Conor Maynard, Katy B and Duke Dumont.

Beth has been in the studio lately, and is putting the finishing touches to her album.

Beth says she can still remember the encouraging words of primary school headteacher Adrian Slack who gave her the confidence to take on her first solo, a version of Celine Dion's Falling into You. "When I performed that first time it brought me out of my shell and I immediately knew what I wanted to do and that's be a singer," said Beth

Her mother Sarah is a registrar in Dudley and father Graeme works for Dudley Council. She has two sisters, Leah and Ellie.

Singer Beth Sherburn performs for pupils at Tettenhall College as part of national awareness campaign

Man assaulted his former partner and broke her phone

A 29-year-old man who pushed his former partner into bushes before stamping on her £200 mobile telephone has avoided spending further time behind bars.

After his arrest Terry Price got in touch with the woman and made threats in a bid to get he to drop her complaint to the police.

The couple had been in a relationship for two years that had ended and, after going round to the woman's home, Price became aggressive, said Mr Patrick Sullivan, prosecuting.

After pushing her into the bushes and shattering her mobile he told the woman: "That's what I think of you."

Price, of Station Road, Cradley Heath, admitted common assault, criminal damage and witness intimidation on December 14.

Judge Nicholas Webb ruled that he was able to allow him his freedom because he had already spent over six months in custody being held on remand.

Curfew

He placed Price on supervision for two years and ordered him to obey a three month curfew between the hours of 8pm and 7am.

Judge Webb, sitting at Wolverhampton Crown Court, also made a two year restraining order forbidding Price from having any contact with his former partner.

"This is a case that amply deserves custody but you have already served the equivalent of a 13 month prison sentence," said Judge Webb.

Wolves fans punished for brawl outside pub

A WOLVES fan has been jailed for six months and four others given suspended sentences and football banning orders after a fight outside a Brighton pub.

Punches were thrown during the incident outside the Railway Bell, Brighton, more than two years ago — on May 4, 2013, the day that Wolves were relegated from the Championship after they were beaten 2-0 by Brighton & Hove Albion.

by Lisa Wright

But a police officer said that those before the court were 'not true fans', unlike the majority of well-behaved Wolves supporters who were able to control their frustration at the result.

Ward Morgan, aged 27, of Goldthorn Hill, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, pleaded guilty to affray and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

He was sentenced to six months imprisonment for both offences to run concurrently and given a six-year football banning order.

Sukhraj Boparai, 24, of Copse Road, Dudley, Ricky Briffa, 26, of Trench Road, Telford, Jordan Hodkins, 19, of Wilson Road, Coseley, and Ricky Bates, 28, of Marnel Drive, Wolverhampton, had all pleaded guilty to affray.

Banning

They were each sentenced to nine months imprisonment suspended for two years and given three-year football banning orders.

Pc Darren Balkham, a Surrey and Sussex force football intelligence officer, said: "This was a joint investigation with colleagues from West Midlands Football Unit.

"This incident took place on a day Wolverhampton Wanderers were relegated from the Championship.

"More than 2,000 Wolves fans attended the Amex stadium with little or no incident of note."

He added: "These men are not true fans of the team and didn't portray the behaviour of the majority.

"These sentences reflect the seriousness of the incident and prevent them from attending games, including the European Championship in France."

The five were sentenced at Brighton Crown Court last Friday.

The game proved an unhappy outing for Wolves, who lost 2-0 at Brighton.

The result confirmed their relegation to League One, just a year after dropping out of the Premier League.

Carnival being revived

A CARNIVAL is being revived in Sedgley this summer after more than 20 years.

Dormston Carnival will be held on Saturday, August 15, on the fields of Dormston School, off Mill Bank. Organiser John Guest, of Dormston Drive, said half the proceeds will go to the school with the rest towards a bigger event in 2016. To book a stall contact Mr Guest on 07986 288146.

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Towpaths to get share of £1.3m fund

CANAL towpaths will be improved as part of a £1.3 million scheme to encourage walking and cycling between Kingswinford and Stourbridge.

The work is one of the projects being carried out as part of the Managing Short Trips project, which is being led by public transport co-ordinator Centro in partnership with the Canal and River Trust and Dudley Council.

As well as previously announced work to a section of national cycle network in Pensnett, it has been confirmed that work will also be taking place between the Bonded Warehouse in Stourbridge to Kingswinford.

Councillor Hilary Bills said: "The Stourbridge to Kingswinford route will utilise the canal network, quieter public roads and public open spaces."

Crafty way to enjoy a cuppa

A NEW monthly craft group has been set up at a Wall Heath church.

Members meet on the first Friday each month from 1 to 3pm at Wall Heath Evangelical Free Church in Enville Road.

It's open to anyone who enjoys crafts such as knitting, sewing, crochet, felting, embroidery, patchwork, paper-crafts. Beginners are also welcome with plenty advice available. People can enjoy a cuppa andcake as they work.

FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD AND WALL HEATH

School thank community for support after arson attack

STAFF at a Kingswinford school have thanked the community for their overwhelming support following an arson attack which destroyed their outdoor reading area.

Staff at Bromley Hills Primary School said they were 'horrified' to discover the damage in the reception class playground, which took place in the early hours of June 30.

Vandals set fire to the wooden structure leaving just the charred remains on the playground at the front of the school.

The school posted photographs on their social media to help trace those responsible for the vandalism. On July 1 they tweeted: "Thanks to everyone who has shared our story. We are overwhelmed by the support and offers of help to put things right. Thank you so much!"

Appalled

Kingswinford Councillor Dave Tyler said it was an upsetting incident that would remain in the children's memories.

He said: "I was absolutely appalled that anyone could do that.

"It is terribly upsetting for the youngsters and their families. This is something that they are going to remember for the rest of their lives and we want to be creating happy memories, not horrible ones like this. I would ask all the community to continue to support any fundraising efforts."

by Clare Butler

Deputy headteacher Jo Rogers said the play area had been 'completely obliterated' by the vandals.

Mrs Rogers added that the school in Granville Drive had been the target of minor vandalism before but this was the first time major damage had been caused.

She said: "It's been burnt to the ground. It was a wooden structure with seats where the children could sit and cosy up with blankets and cushions for reading and role play. We're absolutely horrified that anyone would do this to a children's learning area."

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Elle-Mae Davidson, who was struck by a brain haemorrhage, is in Florida for dolphin therapy

Elle-Mae swims with dolphins

A KINGSWINFORD teenager who suffered a brain haemorrhage is swimming with dolphins in Florida to help with her recovery.

Elle-Mae Davidson will undertake therapy for two weeks at the Dolphin Rehab Centre in Key Largo. Her family have had support for the trip from Blakelands Country House, Bobbington, and charity Promise Dreams.

Leah Davidson, Elle's mum, said: "We want to thank everyone who has made this trip possible and share with them the joy it has brought Elle.

Former Wolverhampton Girls' High student Elle was a happy and healthy 16-year-old when she collapsed in January 2013. She underwent several major operations and came close to losing her life six times.

The next event for Elle is at Park Hall Hotel in Wolverhampton on September 4. Call 07967 123430.

Pedal power helps after earthquake

TWO schoolchildren have been pedalling for to raise money for victims of the Nepal earthquake.

Meah Bentley aged 12, a pupil at Summerhill School in Kingswinford and her brother Farran Bentley, aged seven, from St John's School in Swindon, wanted to do their bit to help.

They completed a 25-mile sponsored cycle ride, which began in Stourport, in aid of Save the Children's Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

There was also a fun day held at the Hinksford Arms in Swindon Road. Pub director Brett Holden said he was happy to support the charity.

The Nepal Earthquake Fund has been launched to help the hundreds of thousands of people affected by the devastating April 25 quake and several aftershocks.

Back to the future for fair

GO get your hoverboard or, even better, a DeLorean sports car for a 'Back to the Future' themed fair in Wall Heath on Saturday.

The event will celebrate the village's heritage and history, with a nod to the classic 1980s movie, run from noon until 6pm.

Attractions will include live music as well fairground rides and refreshments at the event, which has been organised as part of the Black Country Festival.

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Move for housing by island rejected

PLANS to build 14 apartments off a busy Black Country island have been blocked.

Members of Dudley Council's Development Control Committee voted against the scheme, which included 25 car park spaces, on empty land at the junction of Thorns Road and Caledonia near Lye. Concerns were raised about traffic, the number of parking spaces and 'intensification' of the site.

Chairman Councillor Qadar Zada, said "I do think the site requires redevelopment. I do not think there is much debate on that.

"The debate is around what the developments look like. I think this development sticks out like a sore thumb on this particular site."

Council leader Councillor Pete Lowe, also opposed the scheme.

Badgers are causing a hole lot of trouble for pensioners

PENSIONERS are being told to stay out of their gardens because of an aggressive clan of badgers.

The animals are causing havoc by tunnelling under the gardens of Enville Place bungalows in Short Street, Stourbridge, leaving residents in fear that the ground could cave in.

Connie Underhill, whose garden backs onto the Baylie Court flats, said two holes had opened up in her garden and she has been warned not to walk on her lawn due to concerns the ground could give way. It meant as temperatures soared to almost 30C (86F) last week, she was unable to go into the back garden.

Dudley Council is in discussions with Accord Housing, who are responsible for the bungalows. Urban Wildlife have been called in to see the badgers do not come to any harm.

Bill

Residents also fear they could be made to foot part of the bill for moving the badgers, but Dudley Council said nothing had been decided yet.

Badgers were first spotted in Enville Place around five years ago but they had appeared to have moved on – until recently.

Mrs Underhill, aged 82, who has lived in her bungalow for almost two years, said: "I can't use my garden, I have been told not to go out there.

"I wouldn't like anything cruel done to them but it has got to the point where it has got to be dealt with. I'm unsettled with the situation."

Dudley Council housing boss Gaye Partridge said: "We are currently working to identify who has responsibility for any work which is needed to resolve the issues."

Homes plan at warehouse site

MORE than 60 homes will be built on the site of a former factory in Netherton under new plans.

The former Kuehne and Nagel UK warehouse buildings would be demolished to make way for the development.

Outline planning permission has already been granted for a housing estate, near Saltwells Nature Reserve, and now Persimmon Homes West Midlands has lodged detailed plans with Dudley Council. A total of 62 homes will be built on the site, off Saltwells Road with a mixture of two and three-storey properties.

The planning application submitted by agent Clive Smith says the development will 'reflect the local character' of the area.

Revellers brave rain at carnival

The rain wasn't enought to rust Ironman as Donna Roberts dances with the superhero

POURING rain failed to dampen the crowd's spirit in Stourbridge as the town held its annual carnival.

And up and down the High Street Black Country flags could be seen flying among the market stalls that lined the road as the popular event also kick-started the Black Country Festival.

The highlight of the carnival, which ran throughout Sunday, was the parade which this years had a theme of 'Stourbridge Through the Ages'.

Dudley Council Leader Pete Lowe, who was at the carnival, said: "This has been a bigger carnival than last year. We have just had The Fizzogs on stage and earlier we had The Empty Can performing. Thousands have turned up. It really has been a rip-roaring success."

He added: "The parade was absolutely fantastic. It was joined by the Black Country Mon as it made its way around the town. He had come straight from the 10k run in Halesowen, which was part of the festival this morning, but he was more than happy to do so."

A children's fun fair took centre stage in Market Street and Talbot Street, and in the Lower High Street there was a display of classic cars and a vintage fair. The main stage for the event was near the iconic town clock.

The day has been organised as part of celebrations of local and cultural heritage to mark Black Country Day in the Dudley borough.

Upcoming events as part of the festival include an event at Stone Street Square in Dudley on Saturday and Halesowen's Victorian Fair on July 19.

One thousand hit the streets on Black Country Run

MORE than 1,000 runners took to the streets of Halesowen for the annual Black Country Run as part of the Black Country Festival celebrations.

The 5K and 10K races, organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club, were hailed a great success.

Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley, officially started the 10k race as hundreds of runners set off around the streets of the town. Sarah Norman, chief executive of Dudley Council, was among those who took part in the run as was fundraising legend Blind Dave Heeley, of West Bromwich, dressed as one of the three blind mice.

Alan Bowler, organiser, said: "It was an outstanding day and we have received a wonderful response back from everyone.

"From starting the event four years ago with around 400 runners it is now fantastic to see over 1,000 people turning out for the day.

"We had participants from all over the UK take part, so it's great to be able to put on something like this that puts Halesowen on the map too."

Councillor Waltho added: "It was great to see so many people out in Halesowen taking part."

Criticism of idea to downgrade stations

MORE than 1,000 people have signed a petition calling for the fire service not to downgrade stations in South Staffordshire — including Kinver's new community station.

MP Gavin Williamson, who launched the petition, said it was a disgrace that stations such as Codsall and Bilbrook, Brewood and Kinver could lose their vehicles and the ability to respond to emergencies.

South Staffordshire MP Mr Williamson has said Staffordshire Fire Services' plans would turn the fire stations into glorified community centres.

Under proposals to save £5.7 million, emergency cover would be removed from 18 fire stations in the county.

Staffordshire chief fire officer Peter Dartford met the county's Conservative MPs. He said: "The fire and rescue authority felt it was important to explore a range of options, however radical, to be confident no stone has been left unturned as we strive to identify savings."

Church fair fundraiser

A CHURCH in Dudley will host a summer fair this weekend.

St Francis Church in Laurel Road will be hosting the fundraiser on Saturday from noon until 3pm.

Stalls will be themed on the different colours of the rainbow, as well as tombolas, homemade cakes and plants. Ploughman's lunches will also be served in The Retreat cafe in the Parish Centre.

Entrance is free and all money raised will go towards church funds.

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Lay ministers licensed by the Bishop of Dudley

With the Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Graham Usher, are lay ministers Kim Topham, Maureen Hughes, Melissa Rose, Jacqui Green, Quarry Bank's Val Houghton, Geoff Westwood and Pedmore's Mary German

NEW lay ministers have been licensed to preach in a ceremony conducted by the Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Graham Usher.

Seven from Dudley, Sandwell and Worcestershire were admitted to the office of reader at Worcester Cathedral.

Readers are trained and licensed lay ministers in the Church of England authorised for preaching and teaching.

They undergo a two year training course before being admitted to the role, after which they carry out a wide range of tasks within their parishes and beyond, especially helping others to reflect on their faith and how it relates to their daily lives.

Mary German was licensed for the parish of St Peter's Church, Pedmore, Stourbridge. She said: "It has been a marvellous experience to work with those training for ordination in the Church of England as well as Christians of other denominations. The work has been rigorous but very enjoyable."

Val Houghton from the Brierley Hill Team Ministry at Christ Church, Quarry Bank, was also licensed. She said: "The training course has been challenging but rewarding."

Melissa Rose from Holy Trinity, Old Hill, has also become a lay minister. She said: "I'm now looking forward to serving our churches and my community with a renewed spirit and informed mind."

Licensed lay ministers, also known as readers, are part of an accredited public ministry of the Church of England. It is a voluntary, unpaid ministry with approximately 10,000 licensed lay ministers nationally and around 130 in Diocese of Worcester.

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Midlands needs more than JLR

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT
Political Editor

IF the Midlands is to be the 'engine for growth' so desired by the Chancellor, it's going to need a lot more than Jaguar Land Rover at the i54 to keep it from just ticking over.

That is not to in any way belittle the £500 million investment on the South Staffordshire/Wolverhampton border.

But it does at times appear as though it's the biggest, if not the only, show in town in an effort to show what's being done to revive the economy.

The letters JLR roll off the tongue of virtually every council leader, executive or visiting minister wanting to talk up the achievements of the West Midlands.

George Osborne, on visit to Westley Plastics, Cradley Heath, with James Morris

Worse

The growth figures, of course, suggest this region is leading the way in improvement. It just had a much worse position to start from than many other areas when it came to unemployment. Replicating the JLR success is the dream for virtually every single council across the West Midlands.

To do that, they want to embrace George Osborne's 'enterprise zones' – designated development sites which come with relaxed planning laws and tax breaks.

When it came to JLR at the i54, Wolverhampton and Staffordshire councils were able to team up and borrow the money to do the £37 million worth of slip road extension work on the M54 – a major pulling factor for a car maker that needed good and quick access to the motorway network for its suppliers.

Now Dudley Council has its own version of the i54 in its sights – more than 200 acres of land bordering Manor Way in Halesowen and the M5 motorway. The dream is 6,000 jobs. The nightmare is the perceived threat to the green belt.

The Halesowen Abbey Trust says there is 'historic countryside that Dudley Council are seriously threatening'. Some of the Conservatives in Dudley agree with the opponents, including the Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

He accompanied the Chancellor on a pre-election visit to Westley Plastics in Cradley Heath where Mr Osborne made his vow to create apprenticeships and enterprise zones. The problem may well be that the real big money spinners will want a blank canvas, and a massive one at that, to bring their new high end manufacturing sites to.

The solution would be to split up the enterprise zone perks and spread them across multiple brownfield, derelict, former industrial sites which the Black Country has in abundance.

No word yet from the Chancellor on the impending closure of Goodyear in Wolverhampton after nearly 90 years on the site.

That's odd, given how George Osborne is so keen on the Midlands as an 'engine'. What about the tyres?

The parallels between now and the late 1920s are striking.

Back then, towns all over Britain were competing to get the tyre maker in. Wolverhampton won. Fast forward to today and enterprise zones are all about attractive incentives. Getting JLR was a fantastic coup. But the sad decline of Goodyear, where my grandfather worked shows the danger of putting all our eggs in one basket.

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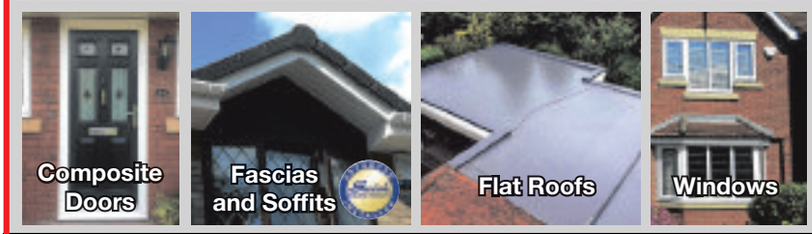

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How cool are we? The band pose with an American-style gas guzzler in the 1980s

Bernie Marsden jams with the Red Lemons

Neil Bullock, Dave Green, Bob Pountney, Dave Crowley, Paul Roberts, Iain Willets, Jim Merris and Suzi Perry

Hold on, they're coming back as blues band tune up for 30 year reunion gig

MEMORY LANE

Report by Adam Burling

IMAGINE being in a band with your best friends, playing some of the country's best known venues with rock legends like Chuck Berry and Robert Plant.

For members of The Red Lemon Electric Blues Band it will soon be time to reminisce as they mark their 30th anniversary by getting the band back together for a special gig.

Future motorsport television presenter Suzi Perry would appear as a dancer to stage with The Red Lemons, who her father used to manage.

Radio and TV presenter, and Baggies fan, Adrian Chiles even featured as bass player in an early line up of the group.

Now they are preparing for a home town gig for fans at Stourbridge Town Hall on September 11 in a one-off show.

Frontman and group founder Jim Merris, now 51, said: "It is like a family. We had such a good time and we were good friends. It is going to be a brilliant night."

The group were formed in 1985 after Jim was inspired by hit film The Blues Brothers starring Dan Ackroyd and John Belushi, which featured lots of straight-faced humour, car chases and music from a host of soul, blues and jazz stars.

"I was given a copy of the film by a friend and watched it four times in a row," said Jim. He bought a Pontiac Parisienne car for £200 to have a big American-style car like those in the movies and determined to sing and play harmonica in a blues band.

He was able to secure a slot at The Broadway pub, in Norton, Stourbridge, and set about starting up a group featuring guitarist Iain Willetts, pianist Dave Crowley, Neil Sprayson and a young Adrian Chiles on bass.

"It was phenomenal. People absolutely loved it," said Jim, who had met Adrian from Hagley at gigs in and around the Black Country. After just a handful of gigs, Adrian and Neil left the group for university. Drummer Neil Bullock, who is now one of the country's top drummers, bass player Dave Green and Bob Pountney, who played trumpet, joined the group, and a few months later so did trombone player Paul Roberts — and he is travelling back from his home in Australia for the reunion. Sue Clarke sang with the group.

The Broadway, JBs in Dudley and now demolished Stewponey roadhouse pub at Stourton were among their regular venues.

After a couple of years they took on manager, Tony Perry. He had co-run the PMA agency based in Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, and had been a director of the Lafayette club in Wolverhampton as well as managing the band Trapeze, whose members went on to join Deep Purple, Black Sabbath and Whitesnake.

They went on to find fame outside the Midlands, even even outside the UK, by performing at jazz and blues festivals. They played at the Royal Albert Hall with reggae star Desmond Dekker. In 1991 the band was invited by Chuck Berry to be 'special guests' on his UK tour. The band also played on the same bill as Robert Plantand Whitesnake's Bernie Marsden even guested with the band in Birmingham.

Father-of-two from Quarry Bank Jim is still gigging, with Big Jim's Boogie Band, but he says their best gigs were at Stourbridge Town Hall. "They were electric nights, jam-packed and there was always great banter," he said.

Latterly bassist Paul Turner performed with the group and now tours with Jamiroquai, while saxophonist Rob Hughes has performed with ABC.

The gig in September will also mark a moment to remember band member Dave Crowley who died 21 years ago in a mountaineering accident on Snowdon.

The concert at Stourbridge Town Hall on September 11 is a 30-year reunion and former manager Tony, of Finchfield, said: "It should be a great night, it is like them coming home." Tickets are available online at Midland Box Office or call 0870 320 7000.

Jim Merris, founder of The Red Lemon Electric Blues Band

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

WINDOW COMPANY GLAZED IN SUCCESS - NEW SHOWROOM SET TO OPEN!

DW Windows Ltd has been established for almost ten years and the company has gone from strength to strength. Since moving into our showroom is Sedgley in 2010, the company had grown rapidly from two to six fitting teams who are directly employed as opposed to using sub-contractors. The management and administration team were also expanded to ensure that the company could have a strong focus on customer service and after sales advice.

Despite the growth, the business is still very family run with the Company Director, Dave Walters heavily involved with his management team to ensure the standards of installations remains high. There are five other family members within the business including Claire Walters, Dave's wife who has joined the company to assist with Health & Safety and HR requirements. Dave has also promoted staff and we now have a dedicated Operations Director and Sales Director to ensure that all members of the team and all departments are well managed to cope with the success and growth.

Our company ethos is 'if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right'. We pride ourselves on our professionalism, workmanship, quality and aftersales and this is why we have continued to succeed despite the last nine years of economic uncertainty.

We now have 4500 customers on our books. We took on 676 customers last year alone and 60 - 70% of these were recommendations or repeat business from existing customers having more work done. This is testament to our high levels of customer satisfaction and quality workmanship.

Foundations of the company have been strengthened by continuing to maintain our CHAS (Construction Health & Safety Scheme) accreditation and ensuring that all of our staff are well trained and supported. We have an external health & safety advisor who delivers training to our staff, inspects their work and ensures that we are working safely and competently on customers properties, performing first class installations. We have also attained contracts commercially, changing windows and doors for housing associations which has given our company a fantastic boost.

This success and expansion has resulted in us outgrowing our showroom in Sedgley. Over the past few months DW Windows have been renovating additional new premises.

Our aim is to keep our local Sedgley office open as we feel it is important for our customers to have a local showroom they can visit, however the new Window, Door and Conservatory Centre in Meadow Lane, Coseley is on a much larger scale and DW Windows Ltd have been able to showcase all of the fantastic products on offer. We wanted to create an area where customers can actually see what they would be investing their money in to improve their home and whilst a brochure can give you an idea, there is nothing like seeing an installation completed.

Our expansion has created an additional six new jobs in order for us to continue to expand and deliver our fantastic customer service. Our aim was to open one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands and we are so excited to be achieving this. On display we have eight conservatories and orangeries inside and outside the showroom. Conservatories have various roof options including an equinox tiled roof and living room glass roof, to give customers idea's. We have two stunning orangeries constructed, bi fold doors, patios, porches and a wide range of UPVC and composite doors on display. We have many different styles of windows and all of the different coloured profiles that are now on offer including UPVC and aluminium profiles.

We are planning a grand opening of our new Window, Door & Conservatory Centre on Friday 10th July from 09.00hrs - 17.00 hrs and Saturday 11th July from 09.00hrs - 16.00hrs. Come and visit us at 8, Meadow Lane, Coseley, WV14 9NQ, view our fantastic increased product range and meet our dedicated team of staff we are so proud of.

Woodland walk is chance to see gorgeous garden

Joyce Williams relaxes in her garden at Prestwood which she is opening to visitors to help raise money for charities

A PICTURESQUE garden which has its own woodland walk will open to the public next weekend.

The garden in Wolverhampton Road, Prestwood, near Stourbridge, is open for charity on July 18 and 19. Visitors will be able to explore the gardens from 11am to 4pm.

Joyce Williams, who is celebrating her 10th anniversary in the scheme, is opening her garden at Westacre, as part of the National Garden Scheme.

She said: "Seeing as its my 10th year doing it I've pushed a little bit more to make it look extra special. The garden itself is three quarters of an acre and wraps itself around the bungalow. It's divided up into rooms, a bit like a house, and there's also a woodland walk."

Proceeds raised by the opening will go to numerous charities under the scheme including Macmillan Cancer Support and the Marie Curie Cancer Care. In addition there will be plants and homemade cakes for sale in aid of the skin blister charity Debra.

Mrs Williams added: "Joining the scheme has not only given me something to do but its given me a purpose. I guess you could call me a plantaholic as I think I've got more plants here than the garden centres! It's hard work but I enjoy it and I've made some lovely friends through it."

"I had a great turn out last year despite the thunder storms so I'm hoping the weather keeps well for this year too. My garden is wheelchair friendly and there is ample parking, so everyone is welcome."

Entry is £4 per person. Since its foundation the National Garden Scheme has donated over £45 million to charities from nationwide openings of private gardens each year.

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Jail put on hold over attack on paramedic

A MAN who kicked a paramedic who was trying to give him medical assistance in a Black Country street has escaped an immediate stint behind bars.

By Peter Madeley

Aston Hamilton lashed out at a paramedic in Hope Street, West Bromwich, booting him in the shoulder as he tried to perform a pain stimuli test to check consciousness levels.

At Sandwell Magistrates Court last week, Hamilton, aged 59, was jailed for 12 weeks suspended for 12 months after he had been found guilty of assault by beating.

West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust has welcomed the sentence and said that assaults against ambulance staff are 'completely unacceptable'.

A medical team had arrived at the scene on June 10 in response to a report that an unconscious man was lying in the street.

When paramedics arrived they found Hamilton in the street and began to administer first aid. On treating him they found that he was breathing normally and not in any danger.

But when a paramedic attempted to carry out a pain stimuli test by squeezing Hamilton's finger, the defendant shouted at him and kicked out. One of the blows hit the victim's shoulder, resulting in him requiring medical treatment.

Police were alerted and Hamilton was arrested at the scene. As part of his conviction Hamilton, from Lozells, Birmingham, was ordered to pay £150 compensation, £350 costs and an £80 victim surcharge.

Bindi Athwal, District Crown Prosecutor from West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service said: "Medics should be free to work without fear of being physically or verbally assaulted, especially by those individuals like Aston Hamilton whom they are trying to help."

All aboard as Europe footy trips kicking off

From left, James McGovern and Kai Rigby, co-founders of the company Football Road Trip Ltd, ready for their first trip

TWO business-minded football fans are offering lovers of the sport the chance to witness the beautiful game across Europe. Wolves fan James McGovern, aged 30, from Stourbridge and Aston Villa supporter Kai Rigby, 35, from Aston in Birmingham, are to organise road trips for fans to visit footballing stadiums across the continent.

After meeting in Manaus, Brazil, during last year's World Cup, the pair hit it off and decided they wanted to offer lovers of the sport the chance to see the sites and cities that form part of the culture around the beautiful game.

The business, called Football Road Trips, has only started this summer, with one of the first packages put together by the pair offering Wolves fans the chance to watch two games from their team's pre-season tour of France which kicked off this week. Mr Rigby said: "Me and James are definitely in this for the long haul. James is a massive Wolves fan so he is delighted we get to go and watch them as part of our first trip."

For more information visit footballroadtrips.co.uk/ or facebook.com/footballroadtrips

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Forest Live

Fri, Sat, Sun
Cannock Chase
Cannock Chase will be alive with the sound of rock and pop this weekend when the Forest Live events take over. Paloma Faith, Robert Plant and Tom Odell are all due to play.
Visit **www.forestry.gov.uk**

Songs For A New World

Tues - July 18
Stafford Gatehouse
Somewhere between a musical and a song cycle, Songs For A New World, is a show that explores defining moments across history, for a variety of very different people.
Visit **staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk**

Great British Food Festival

Sat, Sun, from 10am
Shugborough Estate
Food lovers will be in heaven this weekend when the Great British Food Festival takes up residence at Shugborough Estate near Stafford. There is loads to do for the whole family.
Visit **www.greatbritishfoodfestival.com**

Marcus Brigstocke

Saturday, 8pm
Lichfield Garrick
Political stand-up Marcus Brigstock comes to Lichfield tomorrow as part of the city's annual arts festival. A whole host of events are taking place across the city.
Visit **www.lichfieldgarrick.com**

ROCK & POP

Forest Live: Paloma Faith SOLD OUT
Fri at 7.30pm, £38.50
Cannock Chase, Cannock, WS12 4PW. Call 01543 876741

Forest Live: Robert Plant
Sat at 7.30pm, £48.50
Cannock Chase, Cannock, WS12 4PW. Call 01543 876741

Forest Live: Tom Odell
Sun at 7.30pm, £34.50
Cannock Chase, Cannock, WS12 4PW. Call 01543 876741

Neil Diamond
Sat at 8pm, £73.83 - £96.33
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Aswad
Thu, 7.30pm
The Jam House, 3-5 St Pauls Square, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

The Subterraneans
Fri, Sat, 7.30pm
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

Rock Of Ages Experience
Sun at 7.30pm, Free
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Superskas
Fri at 7.30pm, £8 - £10
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Mary Chapin Carpenter
Wed at 7.30pm
£27.50
Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Irish Session
Wed at 8pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
Wed at 7.45pm, £2
Pigot Arms, Pattingham, Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
Call 01902 700207

Chase Folk Singer's Night
Fri at 8.30pm, £3
The Five Ways Inn, Cannock, WS12 3HU.
Call 01543 279022

Common Folk: Singers' Night
Thu at 8.30pm, £1
Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club, Walsall, WS3 4BP.
Call 01922 682018

Chris Barron (Spin Doctors)
Mon at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Country Music Nights
Sun at 8.15pm, £2
Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

Brewood Acoustic Club
Thu at 8pm,
Brewood Cricket Club, Four Ashes Road, Brewood, ST19 9HX. Call 01902 850422

JAZZ & SOUL

Mostly Jazz, Funk and Soul 2015
Fri, Sat, Sun
Moseley Park, Birmingham
www.mostlyjazz.co.uk

MFY Festival : Evening Jazz
Fri at 5.30pm
Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Blake
Fri at 7.30pm, £19 - £20.75
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Musical Picnic: Midweek Explorer
Wed at 10.30am, Free
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Stella Roberts' Frida
Fri at 5pm
Free
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

MFY: Frequences
Sat at 7pm
Symphony Hall/Town Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Brolly and Friends Irish Charity Night
Sun at 7pm, £20
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Affiejam and David Freja
Tues at 5pm, Free
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Music Services Concert
Wed, Thur at 7pm
£12 - £16
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Barnum
Fri, Sat, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, Sat at 2.30pm, £19.50 - £48.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Honk!
Fri, Sat
Stafford Gatehouse
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

Songs For A New World
Tues - Thurs, 7.30pm
£12 - £14
Stafford Gatehouse
ST16 2LT
Call 01785 619080

NT Live: Everyman
Thu, 7.30pm
£12.50
Stafford Gatehouse
ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 619080

The Jungle Book
Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Cyrano de Bergerac
Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm, £6 - £12.50
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Anything Goes – CANCELLED
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm
£22.50 - £38.50
Wolverhampton Grand
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Girls Like That
Wed, Thu at 7.45pm, £10.50
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

DANCE

Dynamic Youth
Thurs at 7.30pm
£5
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE
Call 01902 321 321

Dance Exchange
Sun at 5.30pm, £2 - £6
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Comedy Carousel
Thu at 7pm, £5 - £19.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Live Comedy – Best in Live Stand-Up
Sat at 8.45pm, £5 - £15
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

The Best in Live Stand-Up Comedy
Fri, Sat at 7pm, £5 - £18.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Lichfield Festival: Marcus Brigstock: Je M'accuse – I Am Marcus
Sat at 8pm, £19
Lichfield Garrick, WS16 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

ART EXHIBITIONS

St Ives Artists
Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Sat at 2pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.
Call 01922 654400

Soldier Stories
Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Pop in Space
Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sat, Sun at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

The Vaper Expo UK
Sat, Sun at 9am, £7.50 - £10
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

The Liberated Quilt
Tue, Thu at 10am - 4pm, Wed at 10am - 7pm, Fri at 10am - 1pm, Sat at 11am - 4pm, Free
Bilston Craft Gallery, WV14 7LU.
Call 01902 552507

Georgian Enamels
Fri, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm, Free
Bantock House, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ.
Call 01902 552195

Small Worlds
Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG.
Call 01922 654400

Love is Enough
Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, £3 - £7
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

The Modernist Face
Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Sat, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 4pm, Free
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Local Wildlife
Sun, Tue, Wed at 2pm -
5pm,
The Oak House Museum, West Bromwich, B70 8HJ.
Call 0121 553 0759

Little Works of Art
Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at 11am - 5pm,
The Museum Of Cannock Chase, WS12 1TD.
Call 01543 877666

MUSEUMS

WWII Day
Sat at 11am - 6pm, £3 - £4
Staffordshire Regiment Museum, Whittington, WS14 9PY.
Call 01543 434394

Beyond the Census
Wed at 6pm - 7pm, Free
Walsall Local History Centre, WS2 7AS.
Call 01922 721305

CRAFT & WORKSHOPS

Children's Weekend Activities
Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm,
£2 - £4.50
The Museum Of Carpet, Kidderminster, DY10 1AZ.
Call 01562 69028

You Crafty Thing!
Thu at 10.30am - 12.30pm,
£3
The Museum Of Cannock Chase, Hednesford, WS12 1TD.
Call 01543 877666

Nifty Knitters
Fri at 11am - 1pm, £1
The Oak House Museum, West Bromwich, B70 8HJ.
Call 0121 553 0759

OTHER EVENTS

The Quiz
Tue at 7.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Wolverhampton City Show
Sat, Sun, 11am - 6pm
£4 - £5
Wolverhampton Racecourse.
Call 0870 320 7000

Storytelling Cafe
Mon at 7.30pm - 10pm, Free
Whitmore Reans Library, Wolverhampton, WV6 0QW.
Call 01902 556269

Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Free
Kingswinford Library, DY6 9LG.
Call 01384 812740

Wed at 7.30pm - 10pm, Free
Willenhall Library, WV13 2EX.
Call 01922 650771

Thu at 7.30pm - 10pm, Free
Tipton Library, DY4 8QL.
Call 0121 557 1796

The Great British Food Festival
Sat, Sun from 10am
£3.50 - £20
The Shugborough Estate
Stafford, ST17 0XB
Call 01889 881388

Open Mic night
Sun at 8pm - 12pm, Free
Moochers, Stourbridge, DY8 1PH.

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Believe the hype, it's Public Enemy

Rebels without a pause — New York's Public Enemy top the bill in Birmingham as Moseley Park gets funky

LEGENDS of hip-hop Public Enemy are top of the bill for the first night of the Mostly Jazz Funk & Soul Festival in Birmingham this weekend.

The New York outfit, founded by and still featuring Chuck D and Flavor Flav, will be the main attraction tomorrow night as Moseley Park celebrates all things funky for three days.

Public Enemy, — replacing The Sugarhill Gang as Friday's main act — changed the sound of hip-hop and rap during the 1980s with albums that yielded such tracks as Fight The Power and Don't Believe the Hype.

The acts on Saturday include Caribbean funk band Cymande, Red Dwarf and Coronation Street actor turned Radio 6 superstar DJ Craig Charles and jazz vibraphone master Roy Ayers. The main attraction on Sunday is jazz-hat wearing singer Gregory Porter on a bill that also features The James Hunter Six and Latin grooves from ten-piece band Baila La Cumbia

For each day's full line-up see the mostlyjazz.co.uk website. Tickets for Saturday have sold out.

Meanwhile, there will be opportunities to see Public Enemy again when they play the Barclaycard Arena as support for The Prodigy on December 3, and Gregory Porter when he ends his UK tour at Birmingham Symphony Hall on April 24 next year.

'The music business is so treacherous'

Divine Miss M at arena

AFTER a 35-year absence from the UK stage, multi award-winning singer Bette Midler is back in Blighty.

The star of stage and screen will take to Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena tonight (Thursday) as part of her Divine Intervention tour.

Since releasing her first album The Divine Miss M in 1972, which won her first Grammy, Midler has become a global star as an actress, singer and comedienne. Last year she returned with hit album It's The Girls!, a tribute to girl groups from the 1930s to the modern era.

But achieving success has not been an easy ride for the ambitious performer who left a factory job in Hawaii for the mean streets of New York as a teenager in the late '60s. She got a couple of roles on Broadway before developing her outrageous cabaret act on the city's gay scene, where her musical director was a then unknown pianist named Barry Manilow.

"I started off as a girl wanting to be an actress but I was not the obvious choice so I focused on singing," she says. Just as well, as the star of The Rose in 1979 went on to sell more than 15 million records worldwide. But the 69-year-old says she is glad she is not starting out in the business now.

"I would not even want to hazard it," she explains. "The music business is so treacherous and crowded. There are people who can barely sing but that doesn't stop them."

She added: "I discovered people in this business will hurt you. A lot of people cannot stand a woman with power and it was left for me to learn that you have to stand on your own two feet."

Shalamar aiming to make you feel good

ONE of the top R&B bands of the 1970s and '80s, Shalamar, are performing at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Saturday.

The trio was created for US TV show Soul Train and had hits with Take That to the Bank, A Night to Remember, I Can Make You Feel Good and There It Is. Jody Watley left in '83 and Carolyn Griffey has sung with them since 2003. The other two members are singer and dancer Jeffrey Daniel and Howard Hewett.

Former Spin Doctors frontman Chris Barron will join New York's punk/anti-folk poet Lach at the Robin on Monday, while Grammy Award winner Mary Chapin Carpenter is at Birmingham's Town Hall on Wednesday.

Spotlight on youth music and dance

MORE than 8,000 young musicians are taking part in Music for Youth's week-long festival at Birmingham venues Symphony Hall, Town Hall and the Adrian Boult Hall, with free pop-up performances around the city.

It includes a jazz concert tomorrow night hosted by Birmingham's Soweto Kinch at the Town Hall.

Meanwhile, DanceXchange showcase work by their young dancers at their base in Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday at 5.30pm. On July 16 at 7.30pm young dancers are joined by professionals to show talent in Dynamic Youth at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre.

Legend will make a Beautiful Noise

THESE are Diamond days at the Genting Arena, Birmingham, with rock and pop legend Neil Diamond in concert at the NEC venue this Saturday (sold out) and next, July 11 and 18.

The Grammy Award winner and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member has sold more than 125 million records worldwide since his career as a performer began in 1966. The 74-year-old New Yorker has an awesome back catalogue with songs such as Sweet Caroline, Cracklin' Rosie, Forever In Blue Jeans and Beautiful Noise. Last year he released his 32nd studio album Melody Road.

Tickets start at £73.83.

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Christmas 2015 at The Venue

Entertainment Packages

Date	Event	Hot Fork Package	Venue Cuisine Package
Thurs 3rd	Soul & Motown Disco	£19.95	£21.95
Fri 4th	70'S & 80'S Disco	£25.95	£27.95
Sat 5th	80'S & 90'S Disco	£28.95	£29.95
Fri 11th	Boogie Night	£28.95	£29.95
Sat 12th	Soul & Motown Disco	£28.95	£29.95
Sun 13th	Disco From The Decades	£19.95	£21.95
Thurs 17th	Boogie Night	£19.95	£21.95
Fri 18th	Soul & Motown Disco	£28.95	£29.95
Sat 19th	80'S & 90'S Disco	£28.95	£29.95
Sun 20th	Boogie Night	£19.95	£21.95

Christmas Day
12.30 - 2.30pm Seating
Adults £25.95
Children Aged 4-9 £12.95
Children 3 And Under: No Charge
3.00pm-5.00pm Seating
Adults £28.95
Children Aged 4-9 £12.95
Children 3 And Under: No Charge

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Time for Bedouin after enjoying taste of heaven

NO postcard, picture or poster does them justice.

Egypt - by Alex Ross

Gigantic stone monuments more than 3,000 years old, each with beautifully carved artwork portraying ancient kings and mysterious gods, with the bright colours still visible today.

Three main temples created over a 1,300 year period by powerful pharaohs with enormous brick walls covered with propaganda. Surrounded by stone sphinx, statues to the kings and obelisks, the Temple of Karnak in Luxor, Egypt, is the largest temple complex ever built.

The Valley of the Kings once boasted 5,000 visitors a day. Today it struggles to reach 1,000 – but footfall is increasing with stability in this proud country.

Venturing into Egypt can feel like entering an untouched paradise. When strolling past the ticket inspector at the entrance to King Ramesses II's tomb, I'm told the queues used to snake around the entrance at the height of tourism.

My trip with Red Sea Holidays started from Birmingham International Airport. Five hours is all it took to get into the newly-built terminal at Hurghada Airport.

My accommodation was the 280-room five-star Makadi Spa Hotel. Within the complex there were five restaurants plus two international buffets. Bars surrounded each swimming pool at the hotel, which also had its own private beach just a two-minute walk away.

But I wasn't just there to relax as an adrenaline-fuelled quad biking excursion in the desert followed the next day, travelling for about 20 minutes before stopping off to visit a camp of desert natives called the Bedouin. They live in their own community away from the rest of Egypt and once one person leaves he can never come back. However, they allow visitors to the camp, invite them in to look at a wide array of spiders, scorpions and snakes in an animal centre, and give them bumpy camel rides.

Vibrant

After lunch at an international restaurant and dinner at the hotel's steak diner, we trekked out to the port area of Hurghada. It had a vibrant feel about it and we ended up in Friends bar for some drinks and a smoke of shisha.

I set off the following day on a snorkelling trip. But as the sun came down, I headed for Orange Bay – an unbelievable sight of long white beaches with a shallow bay which stretched out for more than 200 metres. The afternoon flew by before we returned for the best meal of the trip – a Lebanese restaurant called Tarbush at the neighbouring Grand Makadi Hotel and watched the night go by with traditional Egyptian dancers.

The next morning I visited Karnack Temple and the Valley of the Kings and later joined the five-star MS Grand Rose a cruise boat on the River Nile in Esna, which set off on a three- hour cruise, while I sipped cocktails and relaxed on top deck.

The evening was finished off with a meal in the ship's own restaurant, followed by more drinks on the top deck and a luxury overnight stay in a cabin.

Back at base, I slipped into the swimming pool at the neighbouring Sunwing Hotel's waterpark and even tried some of the water slides. When I returned, flying back to London Gatwick, knowing I had tasted heaven.

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CHOICE

Stuart Manning

Casualty (BBC1, 8.55pm)
Ethan (George Rainsford) is caught up in a complex murder case when he falls for an enchanting woman called Bonnie (Renee Castle), who brings nothing but trouble. This special episode, written by Mark Catley, sees Hanssen (Guy Henry) give his team in the Emergency Department a pep-talk during a night shift, ahead of a dramatic evening. Iain (Michael Stevenson) and Dixie (Jane Hazlegrove) find a distraught Bonnie in a tattoo parlour with her boyfriend Clyde (Stuart Manning) bleeding on the floor, and though she claims her lover left a suicide note, Ethan is suspicious that she is the one who pulled the trigger.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Wimbledon 2015. The ladies' singles final. **5.55** Pointless Celebrities. Writers including Charlie Higson, Gill Hornby and Stuart Maconie take part in the general knowledge quiz. (R)

6.45 BBC News.

6.55 Regional Programme.

7.00 Prized Apart. The five remaining adventurers head to the Moroccan port of Essaouira, where challenges include filling a basket of sardines to a weight of 50kg – without using a measuring aid. Presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates.

8.00 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles presents the show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject. Last in the series.

8.55 Casualty. Ethan falls for an enchanting woman during a complex murder case, but becomes suspicious when she is found in a tattoo parlour with her boyfriend Clyde bleeding on the floor.

9.45 The John Bishop Show. The comedian introduces routines by comics Seann Walsh, Doc Brown and Jamali Maddix, plus music by Jack Savoretti and Texas, and international cabaret star Meow Meow.

10.30 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Not Going Out. Lee's dad Frank moves in after an argument with his latest fancy woman, but it becomes clear he is drinking too much, so the flatmates try to persuade him to seek professional help. (R)

11.20 Would I Lie to You? Rob Brydon hosts the panel show, in which captains David Mitchell and Lee Mack are joined by Dara O Briain, Denise Van Outen, Rhod Gilbert and Vernon Kay. (R)

11.50 Film: The 13th Warrior. (1999) An Arabic nobleman joins forces with Norse warriors to fight shadowy fiends at the end of the first millennium. Action adventure, starring Antonio Banderas and Diane Venora.

1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.55 Film: Private's Progress. (1956) Comedy, starring Ian Carmichael. **8.30** Wimbledon Classics. **10.30** European Games Highlights. **11.00** Athletics. **12.00** The Box. (R) **12.30** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.30** Christopher Lee: Talking Pictures. **2.05 Film:** The Mummy. (1959) Hammer horror, starring Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee. **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.25** Edwardian Farm. (R) **5.25** Gardeners' World. (R) **5.55** Wimbledon 2015. The men's and ladies' doubles finals.

8.00 Wimbledon 2Day. Clare Balding is joined by former players and celebrity fans to look back at today's ladies' singles final at the All England Club. Plus, highlights of the men's and ladies' doubles finals and a preview of tomorrow's showpiece match in the men's singles.

9.00 Mock the Week. Ed Byrne, Josh Widdicombe, Milton Jones, Zoe Lyons and Matt Forde join regulars Dara O Briain and Hugh Dennis to give their irreverent takes on the biggest stories to hit the headlines, through stand-up spots and improvised games. (R)

9.30 The Battle of Britain. Actor Ewan McGregor and his brother Colin, an RAF pilot, retell the story of the 1940 air battle that proved to be a turning point in the Second World War. The pair get hands-on experience of flying period fighter aircraft across the skies of England, giving Colin an opportunity to contrast his training in modern combat techniques with the skills required to master the Spitfire's less sophisticated technology. The duo also meet some of those who participated in the conflict itself. (R)

11.00 QI XL. Stephen Fry hosts an extended edition of the comedy quiz, with Sue Perkins, Ross Noble, David Mitchell and Alan Davies answering questions on the topic of knits and knots. (R)

11.45 Golf: Scottish Open. Hazel Irvine introduces highlights of day three from Gullane Golf Club. Eventual winner Justin Rose and home favourite Marc Warren were the star performers on this day in 2014.

12.45 Film: Dracula. (1958) Hammer horror, starring Christopher Lee. **2.05 Film:** The Curse of Frankenstein. (1957) **3.25** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **2.30** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **3.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.15** Tipping Point. (R) **5.15** Catchphrase. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers, featuring everything from giddy grandmas, cute kids and crazy animals to below-the-belt mishaps, practical jokers and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1. (2010) The dark lord Voldemort rises to ultimate power over the magical world, so the teenage wizard and his friends set out on a mission to find the magical horcruxes – artefacts containing parts of the evil wizard's soul that hold the key to destroying him. The first half of the two-part conclusion to the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Ralph Fiennes.

9.45 Black Work. Jo is left reeling as the secrets she has uncovered prove devastating for her family. She decides to abandon her investigation into Ryan's death out of fear she is endangering her children. However, when another body is discovered, she realises that her husband's murderer is still at large, and it is up to her to see that he is brought to justice. But as she takes up the case again, she does not realise that the killer could be terrifyingly close to home. Conclusion of the three-part crime drama, starring Sheridan Smith. Last in the series. (R)

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Film: State of Play. (2009) A journalist investigates a connection between two seemingly unrelated deaths and uncovers a political conspiracy. Thriller, starring Russell Crowe, Ben Affleck and Helen Mirren.

1.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Ejector Seat. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newmarket, York and Ascot. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. Farm-estate manager Chris hosts the fourth evening in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset and plans an African-themed menu, including savoury doughnuts. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Businesswoman Tracy hosts the final dinner party in Weston-super-Mare. Her evening includes dance lessons, a black-tie dress code, and steak cooked to order. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Walking Through History. Tony Robinson traces the childhoods of the Bronte siblings on a four-day trek through West Yorkshire, exploring the harsh reality of life in the 1820s for the literary family.(R)

8.00 The Secret World of Lego. Documentary going behind the scenes at the toy company, following a design student as he seeks a coveted position with the company and two fans hatching money-making schemes. (R)

9.00 Film: Ted. (2012) A lonely boy makes a wish at Christmas that his teddy bear will come to life, which is magically granted. The boy grows up to become a directionless slacker, with the foul-mouthed living toy still his inseparable friend – but his girlfriend thinks it is time for him to grow up. Comedy, starring Mark Wahlberg and Mila Kunis, directed by and featuring the voice of Seth MacFarlane.

11.05 Film: Hot Tub Time Machine. (2010) Three unhappy friends travel back in time to their youth in 1986 and are tempted to give themselves the lives they always wanted. Sci-fi comedy, starring John Cusack and Clark Duke.

1.00 The Last Leg. (R) **1.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.05** The Renovation Game. (R) **5.00** Secret Eaters. (R) **5.55** Draw It! (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.40** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.40 Film:** Away All Boats. (1956) Second World War drama, starring Jeff Chandler. **2.55 Film:** To Hell and Back. (1955) Second World War biopic, starring Audie Murphy as himself. **5.00** 5 News Weekend. **5.10** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. Stavros and Emily try to get their house back from squatters, while Margaret attempts to recover the £20,000 she is owed from a letting agent. (R)

6.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Sheriff Paul Bohill tackles the case of a small debt owed by ex-footballer Neil Ruddock to a kennel owner, before being forced to evict a school dinner lady in south London. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Australia. Highlights of the fourth day's play in the First Ashes Test at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff. Mark Nicholas presents, and also provides commentary alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.

8.00 Transporter: The Series. New series. Action drama focusing on the exploits of Frank Martin, a "transporter" paid to pick up and deliver people or cargo from anywhere in the world. Chris Vance stars.

8.55 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. People living on state welfare in seaside towns in the south of England, including an English Defence League supporter in Margate and a single mum in Hastings. (R)

9.50 Big Brother. Another chance to see last night's eviction, revealing how the departure of the unlucky housemate has affected the others.

10.50 My Daughter Stole My Husband. More stories of infidelity and betrayal, including a woman who was left in shock when her second husband set up home with her son's wife. (R)

11.50 Criminals: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV and technological advances are helping to tackle criminals exhibiting a complete disregard for the safety of others while at the wheel of a vehicle. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Jessie J & George Ezra @ T **9.00** The Script & the Vaccines @ T **10.00** Avicii & the Libertines @ T **12.00** Family Guy **1.45** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **2.45** Bad Boy Boxer: The Last Chance **3.45** In Deep

BBC Four
7.00 Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **8.00** Timeshift: Magnificent Machines – The Golden Age of the British Sports Car **9.00** Cordon **10.45** Big Hits: TOTP 1964 to 1975 **12.15** Top of the Pops: 1980 **12.55** Timeshift: Magnificent Machines – The Golden Age of the British Sports Car **1.55** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **2.55** Pompeii: The Mystery of the People Frozen in Time

ITV2
11.25 Catchphrase Celebrity Special **12.25 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **2.10** The Hot Desk: Nick Jonas **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.25** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **4.50 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **6.45 Film:** The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **9.00** Love Island **10.00 Film:** Scary Movie V (2013) **11.50** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.15** Crazy Beaches **12.45** Love Island **1.45** Fake Reaction **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
12.50 A Touch of Frost **2.50** Lewis **4.55 Film:** Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.35** Man About the House **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.00 Goodwood Supercars **12.00** Tour de France Highlights **1.00** Pawn Stars **1.30** Tour de France Live. **4.30** British Superbike Championship Highlights **5.30** Storage Wars: New York **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00 Film:** Never Say Never Again (1983) **10.45 Film:** Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985) **12.50** The Cycle Show **1.45** Tour de France Highlights **2.35** Duck Dynasty **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Melissa & Joey **12.00** Baby Daddy **1.00** The Goldbergs **2.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.00 Film:** Penelope (2006) **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Fast & Furious 5 (2011) **11.40** Gogglebox **1.45** Rude Tube: Superstars of the Web **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Jane the Virgin **4.15** Make It or Break It

Film4
11.00 Doctor at Large (1957) **1.00** Fool's Gold (2008) **3.20** The Parent Trap (1998) **6.05** Clear and Present Danger (1994) **9.00** The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 1 (2011) **11.15** Stake Land (2010) **1.15** Sanjuro (1962)

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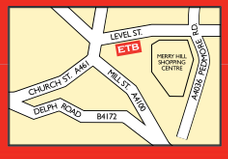

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SUNDAY'S TV JULY 12

CHOICE

Joanna Lumley

Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure (ITV, 9pm)
New series. The actress embarks on her third travelogue, having previously traced the Nile from its source and sampled the varied cultures of Greece. This time, she sets out to travel 6,400 miles making use of the Trans-Siberian Railway, which is considered the longest railway line in the world. Joanna's journey begins in Hong Kong, where she spent some of her childhood. She takes a bullet train to Beijing, where she meets a woman who claims to have known the last Chinese emperor's favourite concubine. From there, she travels to the Great Wall, and takes an overnight train into Mongolia via the Gobi desert.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** BBC News; Weather. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** Wimbledon 2015. A look ahead to this afternoon's men's singles final. **1.50** Wimbledon 2015. Sue Barker introduces live coverage of the men's singles final at the All England Club, where the successor to Novak Djokovic is set to be decided.
6.00 David Attenborough Meets President Obama. The renowned documentarian is interviewed by the US President about the future of the planet, their shared passion for nature, and potential ways to protect the environment. (R)
6.35 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker follows a pilgrimage trail set up in Derbyshire to mark the 350th anniversary of the Great Plague, and Anita Rani investigates the Bakewell tradition of well-dressing. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Fake or Fortune? Nicky Philipps asks Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould to help resolve prolonged debate over whether a painting housed at Picton Castle, her family's ancestral home, is a genuine Renoir.
9.00 The Outcast. Sadie Jones' two-part adaptation of her own best-selling novel of the same name. In the years following the end of the Second World War, 10-year-old Lewis's idyllic childhood is shattered after he witnesses a tragic accident, and the incident sets his life on a drastic new course. Coming of age drama, set in the 1950s, starring George Mackay, Greg Wise, Hattie Morahan and Jessica Brown Findlay.
10.30 BBC News.
10.50 Regional Programme.
11.00 Live at the Apollo. Sarah Millican introduces routines by comedians Steve Hughes and Russell Kane at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R)
11.45 Don't Tell the Bride. Children's entertainer Mark wants to stage a theatrical wedding on a cruise ship for his bride-to-be Kelly, but she is hoping for a traditional event for her big day. (R)
12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **7.30** Countryfile. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** The Box. (R) **11.00** Wimbledon Classics. **1.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **1.45** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **2.30** Prized Apart. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.20** Songs of Praise. (R) **5.00** Mountain Lions – Big Cats in High Places: Natural World. Documentary following two mountain lion families in Wyoming. (R)
6.00 Wimbledon 2015. Sue Barker introduces live coverage of the mixed doubles final, the last action of this year's event at the All England Club. Today's competitors will be hoping to emulate the Australian-Serbian duo of Samantha Stosur and Nenad Zimonjic, who won the title in 2014 with a straight-sets victory over Max Mirnyi and Chan Hao-ching.
8.15 Dragons' Den. New series. The business contest returns, with new Dragons Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham and Nick Jenkins joining Den veterans Deborah Meaden and Peter Jones on the panel.
9.15 Odyssey. Odelle is confronted by Frank Majors after she flees from Omar's guards, while Bob reveals he has new information about the murder-suicide.
10.00 Family Guy. Peter helps Joe to publish a book, but things get out of hand when he starts to take on the writing as well. Elsewhere, Brian begins an extreme exercise regime.
10.20 Family Guy. Meg accidentally spills her lunch on an unstable new pupil nicknamed "Mental Mike", and must escape his plans to fight her. Meanwhile, Peter harasses Brian. (R)
10.40 Wimbledon 2Day. Clare Balding is joined by celebrity guests and former players to assess the concluding day's play at the All England Club, focusing their attentions on the men's singles final.
11.40 Golf: Scottish Open. Hazel Irvine introduces highlights of the fourth and final day from Gullane Golf Club. Justin Rose clinched the title last year following an impressive final round of 65.
12.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.40** Holby City. (R) **2.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.35** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.35 Film:** Overboard. (1987) Comedy, starring Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell. **4.45** Midsomer Murders. (R)
6.40 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.55 ITV News; Weather.
7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.
8.00 Surprise Surprise. Holly Willoughby sets out to reward another selection of public heroes by making their dreams come true. This time, she arranges a surprise fit for a princess for 12-year-old Poppy Guilder, who survived a prolonged battle with an aggressive brain tumour. She also enlists the help of the cast of ITV's Benidorm to reunite 52-year-old Mairwen Turton with her best friend Susan, who relocated to Canada with her family when she and Mairwen were only 12 years old.
9.00 Joanna Lumley's Trans-Siberian Adventure. New series. The actress travels the length of the Trans-Siberian Railway, taking in Hong Kong, Beijing, the Great Wall and the Gobi desert in the first leg of her trek.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. Arriving at a cave system, the contestants use their rope skills to navigate the tight spaces and waterfall descents in search of their dinner, a pig carcass that Bear has hidden. (R)
11.15 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Karren Brady. The businesswoman and star of The Apprentice talks about battling sexism as MD of Birmingham City FC and how a brain aneurysm made her take stock of her life. (R)
12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.40** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.10** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.35** Ginetta GT5 Challenge. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Improving the saleability of a Scillian-style home in Bath.
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud presents the first of four special programmes inspired by 15 years of Grand Designs. He begins with a look at the challenges of self-building in the city, where space is at a premium and architects have to be at their most ingenious. Kevin uses footage from the best urban builds from the show over the years, meets pioneers at the forefront of the latest architectural thinking and looks at clever innovations that continue to transform people's lives to reveal which designs work best and why. (R)
8.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015. George Clarke and the team visit entries from the Cabin and Summerhouse and Workshop and Studio categories, before announcing the winner of this year's contest. Last in the series.
9.00 Humans. Karen's hunt for the "Killer Synth" seems to take a personal turn, and Mattie's decision to trust Leo threatens to bring the Hawkins' debates about Anita to an end.
10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers panel game, with Sean Lock and a special guest captain joined by celebrity guests. (R)
11.00 Rude Tube. Alex Zane presents a countdown of the 50 greatest sporting clips on the internet, featuring videos involving flying press-ups and a bikini wax race. (R)
12.10 Film: Red State. (2011) Premiere. Thriller, starring Michael Parks, John Goodman and Melissa Leo. **1.40** The Dambusters' Great Escape: Secret History. (R) **2.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** River Cottage Bites. (R) **5.05** Secret Eaters. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. **7.45** Little Princess. (R) **7.55** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.05** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.50** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.25** Dora and Friends. **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Access. **10.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.35 Film:** Every Which Way But Loose. (1978) Action comedy, starring Clint Eastwood. **3.45 Film:** Dracula: Dead and Loving It. (1995) Horror spoof, starring Leslie Nielsen. **5.35 Film:** Oliver & Company. (1988) Animated adventure, with the voice of Joey Lawrence.
6.55 5 News Weekend.
7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Australia. Highlights of the fifth and final day's play in the First Ashes Test at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff. Mark Nicholas presents, and also provides commentary alongside Michael Vaughan, Geoffrey Boycott and Simon Hughes.
8.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones. New series. The actor introduces clips of exciting police chases, as elite pursuit units crack down on law-breakers on the highways and byways of Britain. Previously broadcast on Spike.
9.00 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights as the remaining housemates start their final week under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother.
10.00 Film: Harry Brown. (2009) An elderly retired marine takes the law into his own hands when his friend is murdered by hoodlums on a London estate. Crime thriller, starring Michael Caine and Emily Mortimer. Edited for length.
11.50 Burglars & Break-Ins: Caught on Camera. Journalist Nick Wallis joins police forces to reveal how CCTV is being used to fight crime, taking a look at how some residents are taking neighbourhood watch to the next level. (R)
12.45 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear **8.00** Paloma Faith & James Bay @ T **9.00** Clean Bandit & Jamie T @ T **10.00** Noel Gallagher & the Prodigy @ T **11.30** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **12.40** Family Guy **1.25** Insane Fight Club II **2.25** Bad Boy Boxer: The Last Chance **3.25** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth

BBC Four
7.00 Les Mis at 25: Matt Lucas Dreams the Dream **8.00** Connie Fisher: I'll Sing Once More **9.00** Pappano's Classical Voices: Mezzo-Soprano **10.00** One Night in Manchester **11.00** Kings of 70s Romance **12.00** Elvis: That's Alright Mama 60 Years On **1.00** Connie Fisher: I'll Sing Once More **2.00** Rock 'n' Roll America **3.00** Chuck Berry in Concert

ITV2
11.35 Take Me Out **12.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.30** Love Island **2.35 Film:** The Flintstones (1994) **4.20 Film:** Peter Pan (2003) **6.30 Film:** The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **9.00** Love Island **10.00 Film:** License to Wed (2007) **11.55** Fake Reaction **12.40** Love Island **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.30 Film: Columbo: Negative Reaction (1974) **1.35** A Touch of Frost **3.45 Film:** Swallows and Amazons (1974) **5.35** By Royal Appointment **6.45** Wycliffe **8.00** Inspector Morse **10.10 Film:** Death Becomes Her (1992) **12.20** Blue Murder **1.45** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **2.30** Wycliffe **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
12.00 The Cycle Show **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Tour de France Live. Coverage of the ninth stage. **4.30** Pawn Stars **5.30** Storage Wars: New York **6.00** Counting Cars **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Goodwood Supercars **9.00 Film:** Unforgiven (1992) **11.40 Film:** Dirty Harry (1971) **1.50** Tour de France Highlights **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.00 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.00 Film:** The Net (1995) **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.00 Film:** Black Knight (2001) **8.00** The Big Bang Theory – E4's Top 20 **10.30** Gogglebox **12.35** Tattoo Fixers **1.40** Tattoos After Dark **2.35** My Mad Fat Diary **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Guadalcanal Diary (1943) **1.00** The Dark Crystal (1982) **2.50** Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) **4.35** Step Up (2006) **6.40** School of Rock (2003) **9.00** The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 (2012) **11.15** Sleepy Hollow (1999) **1.25** Spring in a Small Town (1948)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Things We Lost in the Fire, BBC1, 11.50pm
Devoted family man Brian tries to support his heroin-addicted friend Jerry, who has lost everything through his drug habit. When Brian is unexpectedly killed, his devastated widow Audrey invites Jerry to live with her and her children. Drama, starring Halle Berry, Benicio Del Toro and David Duchovny. (2007)

TUESDAY
The Greatest, BBC1, 11.45pm
A grieving mother becomes obsessed with her dead son's last moments, while her unfaithful husband struggles to comfort her and their surviving son feels he can never live up to his brother's reputation. Drama, starring Pierce Brosnan, Susan Sarandon and Carey Mulligan. (2009)

WEDNESDAY
Amour, Channel 4, 1.20am
An elderly retired music teacher suffers a stroke, which begins a process of physical and mental deterioration. Oscar-winning drama, starring Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Riva and Isabelle Huppert. In French and English. (2012)

Gladiator, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY
Secrets of Eden, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A small community is shocked when a local man murders his wife, then kills himself. A detective uncovers evidence of an affair between the dead woman and the town's pastor and begins to suspect he may be implicated in the tragedy. To learn the truth, she must gain the trust of the couple's troubled teenage daughter. Drama, starring John Stamos and Anna Gunn. (2012)

FRIDAY
Gladiator, ITV, 10.40pm
Roman general Maximus Decimus Meridius is a casualty of a power struggle between the corrupt Emperor Commodus and the senate. Ordered to be put to death along with his family, he escapes but is sold into slavery as a gladiator – but uses his fame in the arena to fight against the tyrant. Oscar-winning period epic, with Russell Crowe. (2000)

Inside the incredible world of identical twins

We always agree, don't we? We've got the same ideas. We often have the same dreams. We always have the same thoughts. It's like talking to the same person. It's like we're one brain.

That's the thoughts of Christie and Louise Miller, and probably sums up what most people think being a twin is like – that shared experience and, possibly, a kind of psychic connection.

For those of us whose siblings were born years apart just don't understand what nine months of sharing a womb can mean. We may be boring and mundane, but at least nobody knows what we're thinking 24/7 – because that would be a bad thing, right?

Not according to those featured in this fascinating documentary, which introduces viewers to a variety of twins from different backgrounds who have extraordinary stories to tell.

Among them is Anais Bordier, who grew up in Paris after being adopted by a French couple, but discovered she had a twin sister living in Los Angeles after seeing footage of her online.

"I assumed someone had just posted a video of me online," she says. "When I watched it, I realised it wasn't me, but I was like, 'who's that?'"

It was, in fact, Samantha Futimar, an actress who had appeared in Memoirs of a Geisha. The girls shared the same birthday and had been born in South Korea. They eventually met in London.

"I think we spent five minutes looking at our teeth, and our nose and our eyebrows and hands," smiles Anais. "Getting our DNA results was the last stitch in the pillow. Knowing that everything we'd hoped for, and already knew, was actually true."

Brenda and Bonnie Bowers were identical twin girls who grew up together in America's mid-west.

"All our activities were together and people looked at us as a unit," reveals Brenda, who is seven minutes younger than her sibling. "We did have the same tastes. If I didn't like something, I'm positive Bonnie didn't like it either. I always knew where she stood, what she was thinking and feeling."

Despite that close bond, Brenda was stunned when Bonnie initially came out as a lesbian, then opted for gender reassignment. They now claim the choice made by Bonnie – who renamed himself Aiden – has, in fact, brought them even closer together.

"We grabbed on for dear life, to go through this together. It made me hold on even more to the idea that we're twins. I can easily say it's just a name change. There's that core connection that can't be broken."

Other siblings featured here include Malcolm and Andrew. Now toddlers, their bond proved useful when Andrew alerted his parents to the fact that Malcolm was struggling to breathe.

Tim and James Brown from Liverpool both suffered kidney problems as toddlers, but only James recovered fully.

Luckily, Tim had a ready-made kidney donor available, thanks to his brother James, when he desperately needed a transplant.

The differences between twins may be small, but it is not unusual for twins to react differently to illness.

Tim and James Brown in Secret Life of Twins, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen: Cracking China
BBC2, 9pm
With his foppish dress sense and even more flamboyant taste in interior decoration, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen was arguably the break-out star of the hugely successful Changing Rooms. His fame helped him to launch his own range of cushions and picture frames, which he sells through a well-known catalogue, but in the current economic climate, even household names face difficulties shifting their wares. Luckily, Llewelyn-Bowen thinks he has spotted a potential new market, as he tries to start a business selling to emerging middle classes of China and Mexico. However, instead of sticking to home decor, he is instead branching out into lingerie, and this documentary follows him in the build up to the launch.

TUESDAY
Virgin Atlantic: Up in the Air
ITV, 9pm
Cameras follow the launch of the company's new uniform, and Annie who has to fit out thousands of employees. Meanwhile, Rebe, Mim and Helen are putting together a style guide for company staff, and they want airline workers to be the magazine's models, so hopefuls fly in to Crawley from as far afield as India and San Francisco to compete in the company's Top Model competition. Elsewhere, the pressure is on to get Virgin's new Dreamliner plane delivered on time from Boeing.

WEDNESDAY
Don't Tell the Bride
BBC1, 8pm
Former soldier Alex takes command of his military wedding to his bride-to-be Sacha. Having served in the army for seven years, he wants to celebrate the heroes of World War Two by getting Sacha to arrive at the wedding ceremony in an old war plane, then a tank. However, she is hoping his army days are behind him and is desperate for her big day to be a traditional, intimate event. With a mother-in-law to impress, and a bride hoping he will put her first, will Jason have to run for cover when his plans are revealed?

The Autistic Gardener
Channel 4, 8pm
Award-winning garden designer Alan Gardner and his team of fellow autistic horticultural enthusiasts visit Ealing in west London, where they have taken on a small garden with a big problem. James and Sophie's neglected plot is only eight by four metres and is on two levels, with a one-metre drop. The challenge facing the team is to make the most of the limited space available so that the garden looks and feels bigger, with just one week to make the changes and a budget of £1,200.

Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen: Cracking China, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

THURSDAY
Grand Designs
Channel 4, 8pm
In the second of four special programmes, Kevin McCloud looks at the challenges of self-building in the UK's most remote places, where beautiful landscapes often meet savage weather. Drawing on footage from 15 years of the programme, as well as new visits to extraordinary and incredible homes, Kevin reveals which designs work best, and why. Along the way, he interviews pioneers at the forefront of architecture in the wilderness and sees the astonishing lengths people go to live on the edges of society.

Big Brother: The Live Final
Channel 5, 9pm
It can't be easy to keep coming up with new twists on the Big Brother format, but somehow this series has managed it. Whether it's bringing back legendary former housemates, turning the BB abode into a hotel, or taking a trip through time, this latest run has been hugely entertaining. However, only one of the class of 2015 can win, and it's time for the public to make their final decision. Emma Willis takes charge of the proceedings as she whittles the hopefuls down one by one, taking them through some of the highs and lows of their time on TV.

FRIDAY
T in the Park 2015 – Highlights
BBC2, 11.30pm
No one can doubt the BBC's commitment to music this summer – in the wake of the Beeb's extensive Glastonbury coverage, this evening alone BBC Two is bringing us coverage of the Proms and a selection of the most memorable moments from last weekend's T in the Park. Although it may not be quite as famous as the aforementioned Somerset festival, T in the Park has been going since 1994, and this year celebrated its 21st birthday by moving to a new home of Strathallan Castle in Perthshire. Acts including Kasabian, the Prodigy and Sam Smith.

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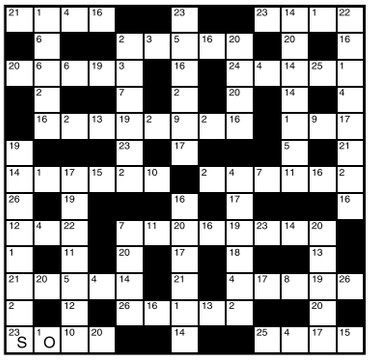
BRAIN GYM No.333

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1 O	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23 S
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	N	Y	K	G	X	C	W	U	T	A	D	V
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	M	J	O	Z	E	L	I	Q	F	S	R	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

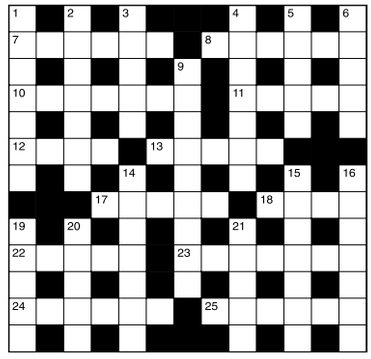
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. New tune I'd put together (6)
8. She gave everybody stony looks (6)
10. It benefits from inflation, and the benefit is all-inclusive (7)
11. He swears he's one of twelve (5)
12. Chief means of support (4)
13. Many deserve to get information (5)
17. Take off (5)
18. I play in Roman children's game (4)
22. Half a minute or less (5)
23. He turns out to be an oriental conqueror (7)
24. Remarkable communication (6)
25. Don't miss a review (6)

Down

1. A tower of strength (7)
2. Club which may improve the flow of writing (7)
3. Fellow holds me up showing bad spirit (5)
4. Lying in a case, perhaps (7)
5. Dropping in to ask for some paper (5)
6. Hang about looking black (5)
9. From being in the red I possibly came into money (9)
14. See what someone has to say? (3-4)
15. Shorten a dog-end (7)
16. A man of fine taste (7)
19. Collect for a service (5)
20. They're not expected to impede one's progress (5)
21. A face saving feature of olden times (5)



Quick Clues:

Across

7. Prize (6)
8. Writhe (6)
10. Relief (7)
11. Quash (5)
12. Entice (4)
13. Swift (5)
17. Veracity (5)
18. Rip (4)
22. Despondency (5)
23. Slender (7)
24. Exact (6)
25. Small piece (6)

Down

1. Alarm (7)
2. Companion (7)
3. Seat (5)
4. Filthy (7)
5. Titan (5)
6. Abundant (5)
9. Lay waste (9)
14. First (7)
15. Compunction (7)
16. Short stiff hair (7)
19. Concur (5)
20. Plunder (5)
21. Harass (5)

Sudoku

1		4					7	
	3		8		2			1
				4			8	5
	6		7		9		3	
	1			3		5		
7			5		1		9	
2	7			1				
3			6		7		4	8
	9				8			3

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	3	6	2	5	7	9	1	4
9	1	4	3	6	8	7	2	5
7	5	2	9	1	4	8	3	6
2	9	3	4	7	5	6	8	1
6	8	5	1	2	3	4	9	7
4	7	1	6	8	9	3	5	2
5	4	7	8	9	2	1	6	3
1	2	9	7	3	6	5	4	8
3	6	8	5	4	1	2	7	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Rased; 4 Raisins; 8 Interim; 9 Friar; 10 Ward; 11 Overcast; 13 Rues; 14 Lone; 16 Reverent; 17 Star; 20 Delta; 21 Armenia; 22 Endless; 23 Spree. Down: 1 Railway bridge; 2 Satyr; 3 Dare; 4 Remove; 5 Inferior; 6 Imitate; 7 Stretcher case; 12 Decrease; 13 Reviled; 15 Inlays; 18 Tenor; 19 Amos.
QUICK - Across: 1 Guard; 4 Capture; 8 Arbiter; 9 Stoop; 10 Damp; 11 Donation; 13 Whip; 14 Elan; 16 Quantity; 17 Dire; 20 Ethos; 21 Educate; 22 Torment; 23 Dress. Down: 1 Grandiloquent; 2 Album; 3 Duty; 4 Carton; 5 Passable; 6 Utopian; 7 Expensiveness; 12 Distaste; 13 Weather; 15 Street; 18 Irate; 19 Fund.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who was the British commander at the Battle of Jutland?
2. In which year did King Juan Carlos become head of state in Spain?
3. What is the more familiar name of William H. Bonney?
4. Which island was once called Van Diemen's Land?
5. What nationality was former U.N. Secretary-General U Thant?
6. Which cartoonist created the strip 'Peanuts'?
7. In which English city was actress Pat Phoenix born?
8. Who did William Shakespeare marry?
9. In which country was thriller writer Ngaio Marsh born?
10. Who was born first, Laurel or Hardy?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 John Milton; 2 Edward VII; 3 Richard Burton; 4 He was hanged; 5 1896; 6 The bra (she patented it); 7 Conrad and Bean; 8 15th November 1985; 9 Oklahoma; 10 The moon.

Niner: FORMULATE

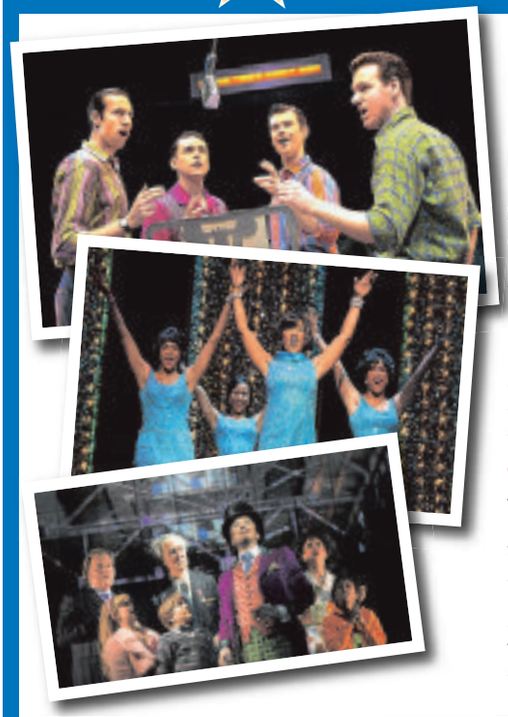
Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

541894 gives a bird,
317896 gives a game bird,
52361 gives an animal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

star extra TRAVEL London Theatre Breaks



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BK Code:2829

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BK Code:2830

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Offers around £340,000

SEDGLEY, Northway

EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with flexible room arrangements comprising; porch, hallway, L shape through living room, dining room, rear hallway, cloakroom, secondary lounge, well equipped kitchen. Two staircases to first floor with FOUR BEDROOMS (one with bathroom en suite) and further shower room, Garage, parking, garden, EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £275,000, NOW £269,000

SEDGLEY, Bath Street

EXCITING CONTEMPORARY DESIGN! - Fastidiously appointed recently built SPACIOUS detached.Hall study lounge, OUTSTANDING Dining Kitchen Lobby laundry F/cloaks; FOUR Bedrooms (2 en-suite)bathroom DOUBLE GARAGE. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £234,950, NOW £229,000

New

COSELEY, Cedar Avenue, Bramford Estate

TREMENDOUSLY EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached that has been "transformed" by present vendors to an exemplary specification comprising; hall, store, lounge with substantial woodburner, dining room, garden room (possible occasional bedroom/playroom/study), extended/refitted 16'4" breakfast kitchen, ground floor shower room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage with utility section, garden with extensive storage. EPC:TBA

Offers in the region of £165,000

New

WORDSLEY, Sandringham Road

This EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE is WELL APPOINTED and TASTEFULLY PRESENTED offers: Hall, 13'0 x 12'0 LOUNGE; dining room-with-refitted kitchen, utility/laundry, playroom, shower/toilet, THREE BEDROOMS and FEATURE SHOWER ROOM, GAS C/H, UPVC D/G plus CAVITY INSULATION. Paved forecourt/parking and delightful rear garden. EPC D

£162,950

PENSNETT, Corbyns Close

The subject of modernisation, this MUCH IMPROVED, DETACHED FAMILY HOME has NO UPWARD CHAIN. with: Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Re-Fitted Bathroom. Garage, Garden. EPC D

£159,950

COSELEY, Maslin Drive, Hurst Hill

Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow in quiet secluded location. Accommodation includes; entrance hallway, living/dining room, kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, shower room. Driveway & parking, brick garage, garden. SEDGLEY EPC: D.

Offers in the region of £151,000

QUARRY BANK, Park Walk

WELL PRESENTED, EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY occupying CORNER PLOT with PARK VIEWS comprising: Hall, THREE RECEPTION ROOMS, Fantastic Well Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Contemporary Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & Rear Garden EPC E

£149,950

New

Brierley Hill, Madison Avenue

Situated in close proximity to MERRY HILL SHOPPING COMPLEX, This THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Kitchen Diner, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, THREE BEDROOMS (Master with EnSuite), Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: C

£144,950

New

WALL HEATH, Barton Lane

A IMPRESSIVE 3 BEDROOM END TOWNHOUSE with FULL WIDTH BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY plus GARAGE, enjoying a sought after location, offering a DECEPTIVELY LARGE layout, complimented by the very pleasant level rear garden which has an open aspect. EPC C

£144,950

New

QUARRY BANK, Ladywood Close

This SUBSTANTIAL and VERY WELL PRESENTED THREE BEDROOM HOME must be viewed to be fully appreciated and comprises; hall, well fitted kitchen, pleasant lounge, three large bedrooms, modern bathroom, driveway, garage, lovely rear garden. EPC E

£139,950

New

LOWER GORNAL, Ruiton Street

Beautifully presented, deceptively spacious, double glazed, gas centrally heated property which offers generous living accommodation over three floors briefly comprising; entrance porch, living room, kitchen, en-suite to master, two further double bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garden to fore, garage, off-road parking. Viewing Essential. EPC TBA. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £139,950

WOODSETTON, Park Close

ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached upon WIDE CORNER PLOT at head of cul-de-sac.Conscientiously maintained accommodation includes; porch, hall, lounge, pantry, dining room, CONSERVATORY, enlarged kitchen with a fine range of 'high gloss white' finish units. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, gravelled parking to front, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £132,000

DUDLEY, Bramble Green, Old Park Farm

A conscientiously maintained, significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and double glazed semi detached in popular/convenient district. The accommodation includes; reception hall, through living/dining room, breakfast kitchen with an extensive range of appliances, through lobby. Three bedrooms, bathroom. garden, off road parking. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £116,950, NOW £113,950

DUDLEY, Vanborough Walk, London Heights

A significantly EXTENDED gas centrally heated (not tested) and uPVC double glazed semi detached with further potential conveniently situated in popular district. Accommodation includes reception hall, lounge, extended 19'4" second reception room, extended/upgraded 23ft2" breakfast kitchen, lobby, cloakroom, three bedrooms, possible garage space, garden. No upward chain. EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £120,000, NOW £112,000

WOODSETTON, Tipton Road

OPEN DAY FOR VIEWINGS ON SAT 11TH JULY FROM 11.00 AM - 2.00 PM.
NO UPWARD CHAIN .Deceptively spacious two bedroom end of terrace benefitting from double glazing and gas central heating comprising; entrance hall, living room, kitchen/diner, Two double bedrooms, family shower room, garden, off road parking to front. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £112,000

New

Dudley, Kingswinford Road

This WELL PRESENTED & SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME is available for CASH BUYERS ONLY and comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, Cellar, Three Bedrooms, Well Appointed Bathroom, Driveway, Garage, Rear Garden. EPC:

£109,950

New

PENSNETT, Commonside

Requiring updating, this TWO BEDROOM HOME has the potential to create a great first buy/investment opportunity. Comprising; porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, garage, rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC C

£104,950

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New

SEDGLEY, Westridge, Northway

Enviably situated in short favoured cul-de-sac just off Caswell Road, and enjoying fine distant views; a spacious, gas centrally heated (combi boiler), and uPVC double glazed detached providing L shape reception hall, fitted cloakroom, transverse 18'3" lounge with patio doors out to garden, separate dining room, kitchen, utility room. Three generous bedrooms (two with wardrobes), bathroom. Large garage, delightful sheltered rear garden, extensive block paved drive/parking. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £227,000

WALL HEATH, Victoria Street

AN IMMACULATE, ENLARGED, MODERN LINK-DETACHED BUNGALOW within this delightful cul de sac setting, offering a luxury appointed layout including a CONSERVATORY, plus TARMAC DRIVEWAY and a pleasant low maintenance rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D

New price £189,950

New

COSELEY, Clifton Street, Hurst Hill

Significantly EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed, FOUR BEDROOMS family home with potential. Flexible accommodation provides entrance vestibule, hall, sitting room, lounge; secondary reception hall, side with access to cellar, cloakroom, kitchen and a garage. On first floor are three bedrooms, bathroom, together with staircase up to large double fourth bedroom. Garden backing onto allotments. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £170,000

New

WORDSLEY, Bells Lane

REQUIRING UPDATING & IMPROVEMENT, this THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE forms part of this sought after location, offering an enlarged layout with EXCELLENT POTENTIAL. LONG DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and pleasant, secluded rear garden. EPC E

No upward chain £149,950

WALL HEATH, Blaze Park

A SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED & GREATLY ENLARGED THREE BEDROOM MID TERRACE FAMILY HOUSE with a LOFT CONVERSION. Including an EN-SUITE plus an INCREDIBLY LARGE and WELL APPOINTED layout. With GOOD SIZED DRIVEWAY and SECLUDED REAR GARDEN. EPC D

New price £149,950

WOLVERHAMPTON, Waverley Crescent, Ettingshall Park

A conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached house benefiting from well-appointed lounge, extended dining-room, good-sized modern kitchen,31' tandem garage, family bathroom, driveway and enclosed rear garden. Viewing Essential. EPC D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £154,950, NOW £149,950

New

PENSNETT, The Plantation

An exclusive address on the Kingswinford side, this SEMI-DETACHED MUCKLOW BUILT HOUSE, elevated at the end of the close, offers: Hall, LARGE LOUNGE with Dining room off, well fitted kitchen, three Bedrooms, Bathroom, D/GLAZING,Central Heating and Cavity Insulation. Forelawn/Drive, Garage and Lawned garden. EPC D

£148,950

New

PENSNETT, Chapel Street

This IMPRESSIVE & SUBSTANTIAL, DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Large L-Shaped Sitting Room with Dining Area, SPLENDID BREAKFAST KITCHEN, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Large Driveway, Substantial Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC C

£145,000

New

Brierley Hill, Stourbridge Road

Conveniently situated for local amenities, this TASTEFULLY DECORATED AND SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME comprises; hall, two reception rooms, dining area, kitchen diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, driveway and large rear garden. EPC D

£124,950

New

LOWER GORNAL, Garden Walk

Surprisingly SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed terrace of character within reasonable distance of the village comprising; dining room, 16'3" lounge, kitchen, lobby, utility & bathroom. Two large double bedrooms, toilet. Lengthy well stocked garden with REAR VEHICULAR ACCESS - further potential. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £120,000

PENSNETT, Comber Drive

This SPACIOUS & BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM HOME is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Modern Kitchen Diner, Sitting Room, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Family Bathroom, Garage, Lovely Rear Garden. EPC D

£119,950

COSELEY, Andersleigh Drive

Outstanding, EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed end "starter home" with panoramic distant views briefly comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen with a fine range of beech effect units, sitting room/snug.Two bedrooms, bathroom.. Potential garage space, landscaped garden EPC: D SEDGLEY

New price WAS £124,950, NOW £119,950

New

LOWER GORNAL, Deepdale Lane

Spacious, modernised, gas centrally heated, double glazed terrace with panoramic distant views comprising; sitting room, cellarage, dining room (with open fire place), enlarged 17'6" breakfast kitchen (granite work surfaces 'Belfast' sink), refitted bathroom with white classic style suite. TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS (one with shower room en suite), further potential, gardens. EPC:TBA. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £118,000

New

COSELEY, Langley Avenue

Much improved, extended, double glazed, gas centrally heated, two double bedroomed terraced property comprising;, entrance hallway, lounge, well proportioned kitchen-diner, utility room, modern family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and driveway to front. EPC: T.B.A.. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £104,950

LOWER GORNAL, Barr Street

EXTREMELY STYLISH! Tremendously modernised and fully refurbished gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed traditional terrace within walking distance of the village comprising lounge, inner hallway, dining room, cellar, utility room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of 'satin white' finish units and various appliances, two bedrooms, reappointed /re-tiled bathroom with white suite. Delightful sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £98,000

LOWER GORNAL, Fiveways Court, Lake Street

An extremely stylish, comparatively spacious, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR apartment. Accommodation provides reception hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen with a fine range of units and various integrated appliances. Two bedrooms (both with first quality fitted units and principle with spacious shower room en suite), bathroom, allocated parking. EPC C. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £99,950,NOW £94,950

New

DUDLEY, Green Park Road

Having an IMPRESSIVE KITCHEN and a MODERN BATHROOM, this TWO BEDROOM PROPERTY would make a GREAT FIRST TIME BUY. With DOUBLE GLAZING & GAS CENTRAL HEATING, the property also comprises: Hall, Guests W.C, Stylish Lounge, Driveway, Garden. EPC D

£89,950

LOWER GORNAL, Orchard Grove

A well presented FIRST FLOOR FLAT part PVC double glazed, most conveniently situated within walking distance of the village and many other amenities. Accommodation provides reception hall (with extensive storage), lounge, kitchen, store, two double bedrooms, bathroom, allocated garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

New price WAS £80,000, NOW £75,000

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- Landscaped Rear Gardens

Offers in Excess of £124,950*

Park Avenue, Oldbury,

- Immaculate Home in Cul De Sac
- Extended Kitchen With Side Utility
- Lounge DInner With Acces To The Garden
- EPC RATING D

Offers in the Region Of £169,950*

Antrobus Road, BIRMINGHAM,

- Four Bedroom Victorian Property
- Extended Modern Kitchen
- Landscaped Rear Garden
- EPC RATING E

Guide Price £129,950*

Warstone Lane, Jewellery Quarter,

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Livingroom
- Double Bedroom
- Fitted Kitchen and Bathroom

Offers invited over £124,950*

Redditch Road, Studley,

- Fabulous Grade II Listed Cottage
- Two Double Bedrooms & Upstairs Bathroom
- Southerly Aspect Garden
- Off Road Parking and a Large Shed/Workshop

Offers over £189,950*

Bhullar Way, Oldbury,

- Three Bedroom
- En Suite to Masted Bedroom
- Garage and Off Road Parking
- Lovely Area

Offers in Excess of £169,950*

Lower Comball, Tipton,

- Four Bedroom Detached Property
- Solar Panels and Garage
- Ensuite to Family Bathroom
- Family Bathroom and WC

Offers in Excess of £209,950*

Watney Grove, Birmingham,

- Two Bedroom Semi Detached
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Solar Panel
- Exceptional Decor

Offers in the Region Of £149,950*

Hawfield Road, Oldbury, Tividale

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Open Plan Kitchen/ Dinner
- Spacious Livingroom
- EPC RATING (D)

£119,950*

Whitlock Grove, Kings Heath

- Delightful Four Bedroom, Three Storey House
- Off Road Parking and Rear Enclosed Garden
- Family Bathroom and Ensuite Shower Room
- EPC Rating: C

Offers invited over £199,950*

Stratford Road, Hockley Heath

- Idyllic Location
- 2 Bedroom Executive Apartment
- En suite to Masted Bedroom
- Open Plan Reception Room

Guide Price £224,950*

Lambourn Road, Willenhall,

- Extended Modern Three Bedroom Detached
- Conservatory & Landscaped Gardens
- Solar Panelled Roofing
- EPC Rating: D

Offers in Excess of £199,950*

Cadgwith Gardens,

- Four Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated In a quiet Cul De Sac Location
- Dining/Breakfast Room/ Open Plan Space
- View Highly Recommended

Guide Price £189,950*

Dudley Road West, Tipton,

- Unique Traditional Detached Property
- Conservatory/ Sun Room
- Off-Road Parking and Garage
- EPC Rating F

Offers in Excess of £179,950*

Hurst Lane, Tipton,

- Modern Three Bedroom Much Loved Home
- Detached Garage / Rear Gardens
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- EPC TBC

Guide Price £124,950*

Churchfields Way, West Bromiwch,

- Luxury 1 bedroom apartment
- Allocated parking
- Close to Sandwell Valley Country Park
- Wealth of good schools and colleges nearby

Offers in Excess of £109,950*

Grace Road, Tipton,

- Modern Three Bed Semi Detached
- Fitted Kitchen / Diner
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazed and Central Heated

Offers in Excess of £109,950*

Rowley View, West Bromiwch,

- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace On A Cul De Sac
- Well Kept Front and Rear Gardens
- Thoughtfully Decorated Throughout
- EPC TBC

Offers in the Region Of £139,950*

Macdonald Close, Tividale

- Modern Two Bed
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Ample Off Road Parking
- EPC Rating D

Offers in Excess of £107,950*

Westfield Road, Smethwick,

- Fully Refurbished Home Three Bedroom
- Large Rear Secure Gardens
- This Will Make A Lovely Home
- Attic Space (Third Bedroom)

Offers in Excess of £99,999*

Goode Close, Birmingham,

- Four Bedroom Detached Home
- Long Term Rental Contract Availble
- Situated on a Quiet Cul-de-sac
- Large Conservatory and Landscaped Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £725*

Hagley Road West, Oldbury,

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Large Reception Room
- Good Size Bedrooms
- Front and Rear Gardens

Monthly Rental Of £575 ● Fees apply●*

The Cube, City Centre, Wharfside Street

- Luxury 2 Bed Apartment
- Iconic Development
- Fully Furnished
- Luxury Interiors

£1,500 ● Fees Apply●*

Kellner Gardens, Oldbury,

- Fantastic First Floor 2 Bedroom Apartment
- Ensuite to Master Bedroom
- Car Park to the Rear and Communal Gardens
- Double Bedrooms

£525 ● Fees Apply●*

Sheepcote Street, Birmingham

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge and Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite Shower
- Close to Brindley Place

£1,500 ● Fees Apply●*

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New Tucson to cost £18,695

Hyundai Motor UK has announced the pricing and specification of the company's new compact SUV, All-New Tucson, on sale in the UK from September.

Prices start from £18,695 for the entry level S trim, which includes: DAB digital radio with MP3 compatibility; Bluetooth® connectivity, with USB and AUX connections; 16" alloy wheels; air conditioning; and automatic headlights with dusk sensor.

Customers of the SE derivative, priced from £20,495, will benefit from additional equipment, including: 17" alloy wheels; rear parking sensors; heated front seats; Lane Keep Assist System; projection headlights with cornering lights; and dual zone climate control.

From £21,295, SE Nav buyers will also get new-generation 8" touch-screen satellite navigation featuring: TMC, reversing camera, MapCare, Tom Tom Live Services and a shark fin antenna.

SE Nav also comes with Hyundai's innovative Speed Limit Information System (SLIF), which uses the front camera and information from the navigation system to identify road speed signs and display the speed limit in real time.

Premium equipment levels also include: 19" alloy wheels (excluding 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive which has 17" Alloy Wheels); leather upholstery; front parking sensors; Rear Cross Traffic Alert; automatic windscreen wipers with rain sensor; Autonomous Emergency Braking); Blind Spot Detection; and heated rear seats. Prices for the Premium derivative start from £25,045.

The range-topping Premium SE model, available from £28,345, features: heated steering wheel; keyless smart entry with engine start/stop button; Smart Parking Assist System (SPAS – Automatic Transmission only); smart electric tailgate; LED headlights; panoramic sunroof with electric tilt and slide function; and ventilated front seats.

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07/57 Mini Cooper 1.6 With JCW Body Styling
72k, Red/Black, Alloys, Red Leather Trim, Air Con, E/Windows, Fog Lights
£5995 / £30 Per Week

09/09 Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 16v Desire
57k, Grey Metallic, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
£3995 / £19 Per Week

09/09 Ford Focus TDCi Zetec Diesel Estate
67k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, Heated Front Screen
£5495 / £28 Per Week

08/08 Ford Focus 1.6 Style 5dr,
*ONE OWNER® 55k, Red, Air Conditioning, CD Player, Electric Windows
£3995 / £19 Per Week

07/07 Ford Focus 2.0 TDCi CC-2 Diesel Convertible
38k, Blue, Alloys, E/Roof, E/Windows, Heated Front Screen
£5495 / £28 Per Week

07/57 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia
3dr, 53k, Violet, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, Heated Screen, CD
£3995 / £19 Per Week

07/07 Citroen C4 Grand Picasso 1.6 HDi VTR Plus
Diesel Automatic 7 Seater, 64k, Beige, Alloys, CD, E/Windows
£4995 / £24 Per Week

07/57 Ford Fusion 1.4 Style Climate
51k, Blue, *LOW INSURANCE® Air Con, CD, Climate Pack
£3995 / £19 Per Week

06/06 Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.6 VVT +
3dr 4WD *ONE OWNER® 56k miles, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
£4995 / £24 Per Week

07/56 Vauxhall Tigra 1.4 16V Exclusiv
2dr Convertible, 47k miles, Silver, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, CD, E/windows
£3795 / £18 Per Week

03/53 Nissan X-Trail 2.2 Di SVE Diesel
4WD, ONLY 52k miles, Beige, Alloys, Full Leather, Air Con, Sat-Nav, CD, Sunroof
£4995 / £41 Per Week

08/57 Ford KA 1.3 Luxury
ONLY 12k Miles, Blue, Full Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows
£3495 / £18 Per Week

01/51 Landrover Discovery TD5 GS Diesel Automatic
7 seater, 89k, Green, Alloys, E/Windows, Twin Sunroof
£4995 / £41 Per Week

07/57 Fiat Punto 1.2 Dynamic
5dr, 39 k, Blue, Alloys, Air Con, CD
£3295 / £19 Per Week

09/59 Fiat Panda 1.1 Active ECO
5dr, *ONLY £30 ROAD TAX® ONLY 17k miles, White, CD Player, Electric Windows
£3995 / £19 Per Week

06/06 Suzuki Swift 1.3 GS
5dr, 58k, Red, CD Player, E/Windows
£2995 / £18 Per Week

Finance example: 07/57 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia 3dr, Cash Price £3995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% APR, 60 Payments of £80.83 (£18.66 per week) Total amount payable £5149.80 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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Available at participating retailers only. Conditional Sale. Offers available on orders or registrations made by 30th June 2015. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to availability at participating Retailers only. *5 years 0% APR offer excludes Sting, Techline and Viva models. Personal Contract Purchase. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. 24-36 month term available. At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) Retain the vehicle: Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle. ii) Return the vehicle, or iii) Replace: Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Subject to our fair wear and tear terms and conditions.

New MINI Clubman a better ride than ever

By James Parker

Another new chapter has opened in the regeneration of the MINI model family, with the debut of the new MINI Clubman.

Following the success of the re-energised MINI 3-door Hatch and the successful launch of the MINI 5-door Hatch, the new model offers customers a premium vehicle featuring the highest level of ride refinement ever seen in a MINI.

The car's much-loved signature design feature – its split rear doors – are retained, while accessibility and everyday usability are further enhanced thanks to four full-sized side doors.

The resulting car is a powerful fusion of sleek lines, innovative touches and first-rate materials with generous space for five occupants, excellent luggage capacity and classic MINI driving characteristics.

With a more mature and sophisticated design, the new MINI Clubman's dimensions are larger than those of the previous generation MINI Clubman. It's also 270 mm longer and 73 mm wider than the MINI 5-door Hatch, with a wheelbase which is 100 mm larger. The boot has a volume of 360 litres, which can be extended to 1,250 litres by folding the rear seats flat.

The latest generation of MINI TwinPower Turbo Technology engines have been installed under the bonnet, with three units available from launch – the MINI Cooper Clubman, MINI Cooper D Clubman and MINI Cooper S Clubman. CO2 emissions are as low as 109g/km, with fuel economy of up to 68.9mpg.

New to the MINI brand is an 8-speed Steptronic transmission, available as an option on the MINI Cooper S Clubman and the MINI Cooper D Clubman. Exceptional handling comes courtesy of a suspension set-up which is unique to the new MINI Clubman.

Acclaimed

Numerous features make their MINI brand debut on the new Clubman, included an electric parking brake, full electric seat adjustment and the optional MINI Yours Interior Styles with backlit door bezels.

The new MINI Clubman includes MINI's highly acclaimed Navigation System as standard on all models, exemplifying the high levels of standard equipment across the range. Furthermore, every MINI Clubman also benefits from the MINI Excitement Package as standard, which features a projection of the brand logo on to the ground beneath the driver's side door mirror when the car is opened and closed, as well as extended interior lighting.

With production starting at MINI Plant Oxford later this year, order books for the New MINI Clubman open at MINI dealers nationwide this week.

Pricing for the newest member of the MINI family starts at £19,995 on-the-road for the MINI Cooper Clubman.

The new MINI Clubman showcases a contemporary reinterpretation of its predecessor's design, combining sporting style with outstanding functionality. The car's silhouette, with its extended roof line and steeply angled rear, remains an obvious link to the Clubman's heritage, both recent and historic.

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Three VWs to get new ultra-frugal engines

By James Parker

UK order books are now open for a raft of new ultra-frugal petrol models in the Golf hatchback, Estate and SV. Powered by a new three-cylinder 1.0-litre 115 PS turbocharged petrol engine, the new Golf TSI BlueMotion returns 65.7 mpg on the combined cycle with CO2 emissions of just 99 g/km.

Also available for the first time with a BlueMotion engine is the option of a DSG automatic gearbox. These cars combine the economy benefits of a diesel with the upfront price benefits of a petrol, with the Golf Match TSI BlueMotion costing £19,740 recommended price on-the-road.

The first deliveries of these cars are due in September.

At the heart of the TSI BlueMotion is a 1.0-litre (999 cc) three-cylinder turbocharged TSI engine from the EA211 series. This generates 115 PS from 5,000 to 5,500 rpm; standstill to 62 mph takes 9.7 seconds while top speed is 127 mph.

With 200 Nm, the TSI BlueMotion has the highest specific torque of any large-scale production series of petrol engines. This is available from 2,000 rpm, though 150 Nm is already delivered from just 1,500 rpm.

Combined economy for the Golf hatchback is 65.7 mpg with CO2 emissions of 99 g/km for both the six-speed manual and seven-speed DSG versions. Such economy is achieved through substantial engine development as well as a number of aerodynamic measures.

By lowering the chassis by 15 mm, adapting the radiator grille, optimising the cooling airflow and fitting special underfloor panels and a rear spoiler, the Golf TSI BlueMotion's Cd value has been reduced to 0.28 (from 0.29 in the standard Golf).

The car also features super low rolling resistance tyres. While this improvement may sound modest, it should be noted that in developing the seventh generation Golf, engineers made a 10 per cent improvement in aerodynamics.

Integrated

Inside the engine, an ultra-rigid crankcase made of lightweight die-cast aluminium and its compact construction with three cylinders mean the 1.0-litre TSI is around 15 kg lighter than a comparable four-cylinder engine.

The exhaust manifold has been fully integrated into the cylinder head and fitted with a cooling jacket to make the best possible use of exhaust gas energy during the warm-up phase and to cool the exhaust gases even more effectively at high loads.

The TSI BlueMotion is also fitted with a toothed belt, which compared to a chain drive, reduces friction by around 30 per cent, while the maximum injection pressure of the 1.0-litre TSI is high for a petrol at 250 bar, while advanced five-hole solenoid injectors ensure precise fuel injections and results in faster energy conversion.

Unlike the diesel BlueMotion model which is based on the entry-level S, the Golf TSI BlueMotion comes as standard in Match trim.

As such it benefits from equipment highlights including ESC, XDS and seven airbags, an Automatic Post Collision Braking System, a PreCrash system, cruise control, stop/start with battery regeneration and driver alert (NB ACC and Front Assist are not standard).

The Golf Match TSI BlueMotion has 16-inch 'Dover' alloy wheels.

This new 1.0-litre BlueMotion engine will also be available in the Golf Estate and Golf SV, with predicted fuel economy figures of 65.7 mpg and 99 g/km (103 for DSG) for the Estate, and 62.8 mpg / 105 g/km (61.4/105 for DSG) for the SV.

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4 Pets & Animals

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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5 Business & Farming

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commercial premises sale / let

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7 Jobs

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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10 Personals

personal

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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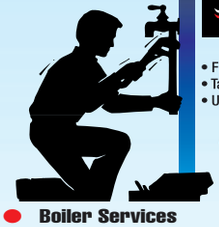

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HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193**

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box No: 418117**

CAROL 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683**

GILLY, voluptuous well groomed lady, seeks man to massage and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 515 4293 Box No: 412933**

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50- 55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776**

ANN, young looking 40yrs seeks broadminded man of any age/location for no strings discreet times, games and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4294 Box No: 412369**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box No: 366019**

JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for non complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTM similar male for romantic liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009**

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTM man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751**

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTM single dad aged 39 to 45. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299**

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTM genuine male who will accept her as she is. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTM uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

ELLEN 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417663**

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417651**

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581**

ATTRACTIVE lady, young looking, single would love to meet uniformed officer. Must be sincere and genuine. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4727985**

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581**

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419**

ZARA 5ft 4ins, slim, single mum, honest, caring, likes walks, seeking genuine male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417513**

Men seeking women

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TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non-conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

HAPPY go lucky male, 30 something, attractive and very social would like to meet bubbly kind lady for see what happens. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4828596**

MALE, 48, looking for a 30-45 yr old female who has an interest in countryside pursuits. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4829696**

MALE, 59, discreet, fit body, seeks lady for no strings fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4823076**

ATTRACTIVE widower seeks lady 55-70 for companionship and more. Car owner. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4828789**

ANDY 40, own home, likes keep fit, cooking, nights in/out, seeks special female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309103**

SINGLE male non smoker, looking for soul mate, laid back guy who likes outdoors, walking my dog and occasional mountain biking. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4763550**

DAVE 55, seeks tiny broadminded slim, small breasted, long hair blonde/ginger female for adult fun/LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4757127**

MALE, 50yrs, caring, easy going seeks female 40/50 for friendship/relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4761012**

TALL, dark, slim, attractive guy, 48, seeks attractive female for no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 299904**

CUDDLY 50 year old male, hard working, seeks genuine woman for days and nights out and no strings fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4437594**

DAVE 37 looking for a nice lady any age to have a laugh with so if that's you text me. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4320134**

DUBLINER, good sense of humour, strong and very fit would love to meet a warm sensitive lady, non smoker. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4754715**

WIDOWER would love to meet female over 70 for friendship. Car owner. Fed up being lonely. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4760869**

TALL, dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752**

DENNIS 72, widower, seeking female, 60-65 for friendship, travel companion, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417927**

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713**

SHROPSHIRE male, 50, tall, dark, attractive, fun loving, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341387**

MALE, outgoing 5ft10 medium built, seeking the right lady, local and caring. Likes to have fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4750169**

MIKE, 61, 5ft.5in, Coalville area seeking 30+ year old lady with long blonde hair and blue eyes for friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4709567**

MALE 47, medium build, seeks female, 40-50 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415651**

BBW lover looking for fun and frolics in the afternoon or evening. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417795**

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking pretty BBW for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411801**

WIDOWER 70 plus, seeking female for friendship. Love me love my dog. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417439**

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Baggies will refuse to pay £10m for Phillips

Albion have warned QPR they will not meet their £10m asking price for transfer target Matt Phillips.

The Baggies are considering alternative targets after Rangers refused to budge on their valuation of the 24-year-old.

And Tony Pulis is ready to move on unless the London club lower their sights.

Albion had an initial offer of £5m rejected at the weekend for the former Blackpool man but remained optimistic a compromise could be found with QPR, who need to offload players following relegation. But so far Loftus Road officials have dug in their heels and Pulis is ready to look elsewhere after ruling that the £10m valuation is too high.

He has already signed Wigan winger James McClean and wants another wide option before the season kicks off at home to Manchester City on August 10.

Albion had hoped to have Phillips on board before the squad flew to America on Sunday for their second pre-season tour.

And they still believe common ground can be found with Rangers over the transfer fee, with Phillips keen to make the move.

But the current impasse in negotiations is dragging on further into the transfer window.

Albion are currently in Austria preparing for tomorrow's opening pre-season friendly against Red Bull Salzburg.

And 19-year-old centre-back Shaun Donnellan has spoken of his delight after flying out to join the first team on the day he signed his first professional contract.

Pulis pushes his players to the limit

ALBION boss Tony Pulis has hailed his players' 'first class' attitude after he pushed them to the limit on their Austrian 'boot camp'.

The Baggies' players have been woken at 5.30am for pre-breakfast runs and have been subjected to three intense training sessions each day since arriving in the Alps on Thursday.

Captain Darren Fletcher admitted last week that the regime was even tougher than he had expected, but Pulis says his squad have responded well.

"The players have been fantastic and have really bought into what we are trying to do even though it is extremely tough," he said.

"It is pretty hot and humid out here in Austria and we are above sea level so there are different things to cope with, not just the getting up early and three difficult sessions a day.

"The players have bought into that though and their attitude has been absolutely first class. They understand that this is an important time to get a base of fitness.

"There is no better way to get fit than playing games and that's where you get your match fitness from, but you need a base level of fitness to get into it.

"If you look at the game now the professional players are far more aware of their own bodies and their own shape.

"They are very conscious that it is a competitive sport as well and they realise that they are very fortunate to be elite athletes.

"I think that they have found out through other people that I do work them pretty hard in pre-season.

Building

"This week is all about building blocks. The journey started here in Austria.

"The most important thing is to be prepared for the first game of the season against Manchester City which is going to be a really tough game. This first week is part of the building blocks that you put in place."

Mid-week running sees Foster come in 6th

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club's week started on Wednesday night at Ironbridge for the fourth race of Telford ACs Sexarathon Series, just over four miles.

Ben Foster took 6th place in 23.07, James Wright was 24th in 25.35, Darran Bishop claimed 34th in 26.20, Simon Hughes proved his performance in the last race was no fluke taking 55th place in 27.31 from Dave Norman a place behind in 27.47.

Gary Bonner was 57th in 27.55, Lorna Hulme was 63rd in 28.12 but claimed the 6th ladies prize, Richard Tonks was 70th in 28.59, Graham Wildgoose was 71st in 29.02, Mark Judge was 78th in 29.21, Helen Tromans claimed 1st in her age group in 97th place in 30.40, Darren Beattie was a place adrift on 30.42, Mark Gatenby was 108th in 31.06, John Sixsmith was 122nd in 32.05, John Andrews was 137th in 33.08, Andy Morrison was 146th in 33.58, Paul Rowlands was 183rd in 36.50, Preston Grundy finished in 38.43 in 202nd place and Lisa Hadlington finished in 42.46 in 234th.

At the weekend Andy Sprague claimed 17th place and third in his age group finishing the Eastridge Trail Half Marathon in 1.40.59.

A number of hoops turned out on Saturday over the same distance for the Birmingham Black Country Half Marathon, a race from Wolverhampton to Birmingham along the canal towpath.

Simon Blizzard was first home in 115th in 1.42.41, Darren Marklew was 203rd in 1.49.31, Darren Beattie was 230th in 1.51.15, Roger Beddard was 438th in 2.04.23 and Narinda Hughes was 555th in 2.12.37.

Tipton fix sights on promotion push

TIPTON HARRIERS took another big step towards their promotion ambitions as they secured maximum points from the South/West 2 meet at Tipton Sports Academy.

The Under-17s and Under-20s hosted teams from Border Olympians, Bromsgrove & Redditch, Cardiff Archers, Dudley & Stourbridge Harriers and Kidderminster & Stourport and were able to take maximum points with a total match score of 276.

It was a narrow victory that went right down to the relay events, Harriers prevailing over second-placed Bromsgrove & Redditch by three points.

Marcela Golebiowski ran a fine 100m in 12 seconds flat for the Under-17 men, while Derrion Thompson won the Under-20 female equivalent for the hosts in 12.8.

Connor Styles edged a competitive Under-20 200m with a time of 24.4, winning by three-tenths of a second.

Fourteen-year-old Katie Southern had two reasons to smile as she smashed her PB on her way to winning the Under-17 200m in 28.8 for the Harriers.

Successful

There were also top spots for Katie Dolan in the Under-20 400 and 800m, while Tom Acha was successful in the Under-20 1500m in four-and-a-half minutes.

Isher Mander won in the female equivalent, registering a time of 5.30.

Daniela Sedgley and Rosa Lewis took advantage of solo fields by securing top points in the 1500m Under-20 and Under-17, respectively.

With Bromsgrove & Redditch breathing down the necks of the young Tipton stars throughout, Stephen Cole landed an impressive season-best of 17.98m in the Under-20 discuss followed up a PB as he broke the 10m barrier with victory in the shot put.

Tipton fielded a team in the Under-20 4x400m women's relay and scored heavily as they clocked a time of 4.47.

It was a vital week for the hosts, who leapfrogged both Cardiff Archers and Kidderminster & Stourport into second place in the league standings and are now only two points behind leaders Bromsgrove & Redditch. The top two clubs get promoted.

Aquartet of Tipton Harriers athletes line up, left to right, Cerys Jones, 14, Kate Southern, 14, Hannah Smith, 15, and

The win kick-starts a busy schedule for the Tipton club, who host the Special Olympic Games on Sunday.

It is the first time the event has taken place in Sandwell for over 30 years.

Then, on Wednesday, July 8, there is a memorial event for Andy Holden. The former club stalwart, who competed at the 1972 Olympic Games, passed away in January 2014. The event, a five-mile memorial race, begins at the Coneygre Community Centre, Tipton at 7.15pm.

The deadline for postal and online entrants is Monday, July 6.

On the Special Olympics, club secretary Marg Cheddington said: "It's really special that we have the opportunity to host the games.

""We're expecting a huge turnout."

Wolves pull out of deal for Chris Wood

WOLVES have pulled out of the race to sign Chris Wood. It is believed Leicester City want £3m for the former Albion man – a figure Wolves are not prepared to match.

Championship rivals Leeds are thought to have stumped up the cash and Wood will sign for the Yorkshire club imminently.

It was initially thoughtLeicester would have accepted around the £1m mark for the New Zealand international, but sources have revealed that their desired figure is three times that amount.

The 23-year-old has just 12 months left on his deal at the King Power Stadium and cost the Foxes around £2m plus add-ons when he moved from Albion in 2013.

Wolves had hoped the East Midlands club would accept a far lower fee.

Saddlers are to host Villa U-21s games

WALSALL'S Banks's Stadium will host five Villa under-21 games next season, it has been confirmed.

The young Villans will play Stoke on August 10, Brighton on September 14, Albion on September 28, Newcastle on January 11 and Swansea on February 22 at the home of the Saddlers.

All games take place on a Monday night.

"This agreement further cements our excellent working relationship with Aston Villa FC," said Walsall club secretary Daniel Mole.

"We are delighted to be playing host to their under-21 team for five fixtures in the Barclays Under-21 Premier League during the season ahead. It means that we will get to see some of the best emerging young talent in the country."

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Sport

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Saddlers are put through their paces

WALSALL players were put through their paces by boss Dean Smith on the first day of pre-season training.

Amongst the group, who met up at the club's training ground in Essington, was new goalkeeper Neil Etheridge who completed his move from Charlton yesterday once the session had finished.

Fellow new recruit Jason Demetriou wasn't able to attend, the full-back instead flying back to Cyprus to prepare for his move to England. All the players were put through a series of drills and fitness tests with coaches Jon Whitney, Richard O'Kelly and Neil Cutler.

And it was star midfielder Sam Mantom who posted the most impressive scores

Mantom, who missed the vast majority of last season with a knee injury, impressed his team mates and coaches after scoring 22 on the push-challenge before going into complete 91 straight press-ups.

The 23-year-old came out on top in all challenges except a 12 -minute run, which was won by skipper Adam Chambers with Tom Bradshaw a close second.

Smith said the whole group had come back in better shape than last year.

"They are all in really good shape, better than last pre-season which is really pleasing," he said. "We have had them in a couple of days over the summer and they have had individual programmes to follow as well.

"We give them a lot of trust as well but it's great to see that trust has been paid back because it's clear they have looked after themselves.

"I think it's also helped that most of these players were with us last season, they know the high standards we set for them."

"We will do a lot of testing on the players this week," he said.

Villa's Benteke is due to sign deal with Liverpool

CHRISTIAN BENTEKE will sign for Liverpool this week after the Reds agreed to meet his £32.5 million release clause, according to reports.

Reds boss Brendan Rodgers had appeared to be waiting for Villa to drop their asking price in the past couple of weeks but reports suggest he has now decided to make his move.

The Belgium international would be Liverpool's seventh signing in a summer spending spree and is believed to have his heart set on a move to Anfield.

Benteke, 24, has scored 49 goals in 101 appearances since arriving at Villa Park from Genk for £7m almost three years ago.

Meanwhile Villa are one of three Premier League clubs tracking Belgian star Dennis Praet about a possible summer move from Anderlecht.

Everton and Southampton are also keen on the highly-rated 21-year-old, although no bids have been tabled as yet. Villa boss Tim Sherwood was due to complete the £9m signing of Senegalese midfielder Idrissa Gueye in the next few days.

Greaves is optimistic over injuries

Speedway

NATHAN Greaves is backing Cradley to battle through their injury problems and get a National League title challenge back on track.

Heathens have lost Greaves to a broken leg – and Michael Neale had surgery last week to plate his broken collarbone.

They'll be looking for three more league points when Buxton visit Perry Barr on Wednesday, July 22 with the possibility of a temporary signing covering for Neale.

And Greaves admits he's not the best of spectators as he prepares to see out the season on the injury list.

Greaves said: "It's been a tough couple of weeks for Cradley, but after winning the League and nearly every trophy going the last two years it was bound to happen sooner or later.

"Some bad luck was always going to come around at some stage, that's just the way speedway goes, and with me and Mike Neale getting injured at the same time things haven't been easy.

"It's frustrating watching updates and not being able to ride, but I'm sure the boys will get through it and manage to get going again.

"As a team we've just got to keep working hard and doing the best we can, and I'm sure we'll be able to pick things up again.

"Hopefully the team can start winning again soon and we can still be in the mix for the title at the end of the year."

Meanwhile Neale will be having laser treatment in a bid to speed up his recovery from the collarbone injury.

He said: "I was at Birmingham last week to see Steve Williams the physio, and he said to give him a call once my operation was done so I've got in touch with him and started having treatment.

"If that all goes well I'm hoping to be back on a bike in 3-4 weeks, so fingers crossed."

SKIPPER STEPS DOWN AT CLUB

HALESOWEN Cricket Club Chairman Richard Evans is urging everyone at the club to get behind new skipper Richard Brooker.

Brooker will take charge for the first time against Tamworth in Saturday's home game after Faisal Shahid resigned on Monday.

Shahid resigned in the aftermath of their latest defeat at the hands of league leaders Sutton Coldfield.

Evans said: "Richard is an experienced player and I hope all the club gets behind him as we aim to push up the table in the second half of the season

"We wish Faisal well as he continues to represent Halesowen as a player, and thank him for all of his hard work over the past season and a half."

Shahid took over as skipper in April last year after Wes Griffiths stepped down following two seasons at the helm.

Optimism

Saturday's defeat means Halesowen are hovering just above the relegation zone despite all the pre-season optimism.

"The bowling unit did well to restrict Sutton Coldfield to 204, but once again our batting frailties were exposed.

"Too many wickets were gifted to the opposition and we simply aren't putting as high a price on our wicket as we should be.

"This week was always likely to bring a lot of soul searching," Evans added.

With the season at the halfway point Halesowen will need an upturn in form to preserve their status.

Wins against the teams below them in the table, Brewood, Eastnor and Stourbridge will be vital.

Adam Hawker's 2nd XI maintained the pressure on the league leaders with a winning draw at Kenilworth Wardens thanks to a fine maiden century from 17-year-old Deon Patel as Halesowen posted 254-5 from their 50 overs.

Hawker led from the front with 3-54 from his 15 overs with the other spinners picking up the remaining wickets.

Old Hill grab league top spot

Old Hill wicketkeeper Dan Brosnan sees a chance go begging – but his side went top of the

OLD Hill replaced Walsall at the top of Division One table after crushing the Gorway outfit by nine wickets.

Walsall capitulated from 66-0 to 119 all out following the dismissal of openers Mike Hingley (21) and James Middleton (49) to run outs.

The rest of the Walsall batting line-up was unable to cope with the spin of Nigel Davenport (6-23) and Dimitri Ratnayake (2-32).

Overseas player Amitoze Singh hit an unbeaten 86 and claimed 3-49 on his debut for Smethwick in their draw with Himley. Halesowen lost by 126 runs to Division Two leaders Sutton Coldfield despite 4-46 from Richard Brooker.

A seventh-wicket stand of 104 between Rana Hassan (131 not out) and Tom Morris (33) turned the tide for Penkridge against Shifnal.

After looking in trouble at 68-6, Penkridge finished on 232-8 and dismissed Shifnal for 138.

Kuldeep Diwan returned figures of 8-36 for Wombourne in their draw against Old Elizabethans.

The battle between the two clubs went the way of Brewood as they bowled out Stourbridge for 95, with Robbie Byrne taking 6-15.

C&R Hawks beat Stratford-upon-Avon to move joint-top of Division Three with the Warwickshire outfit. Tight bowling by Nadeem Akram (3-24) restricted Stratford to 168-7.

Countdown begins for Wolves side

THE countdown to the big kick off has begun with Wolves arriving in France for their week-long, pre-season trip.

Just 33 days remain until the start of the Championship campaign.

The Wolves players were today training at the prestigious Clairefontaine academy, France's equivalent to St George's Park.

Clairefontaine has been home to the tutelage of a series of world-class players who have risen through the French ranks, including Thierry Henry and Nicolas Anelka.

The secluded cutting edge base is set in the heart of the Ramboillet forest and boasts 56 hectares of land and 66,000 square metres of football turf

Its luxurious facilities include several training grounds, two articificial pitches with floodlights, an indoor pitch, a full-size stadium where Wolves will play two games, a huge gym, three tennis courts, golf course and indoor and outdoor pools.

Located 30 miles south of Paris, Clairefontaine will be Wolves' home until Saturday.

They play their first pre-season game this week against amateur fourth-tier side FC Chambly.

Opponents

Wolves then face Paris FC on Friday, with their opponents being from Ligue 2 – France's equivalent to the Championship.

Both games start at 3pm and fans will be eager to see who Kenny Jackett selects from the start as the head coach gives some early indications of what his 2015-16 Championship team will look like.

For the first 10 days of pre-season leading up to the matches Jackett has split training days into three sessions – running, football and gym work.

Rushall sign Fitz from Glassboys

RUSHALL Olympic boss Richard Sneekes has continued his summer spree by bringing midfielder Jordan Fitzpatrick back to Dales Lane.

Fitzpatrick, aged 27, moves back to Rushall after three seasons at league rivals Stourbridge where he was a regular for the Glassboys.

First Division South club Tividale have began their rebuild under Ross Thorpe and Phil Male by securing goalkeeper Tom Turner.

Turner was on-loan at Causeway United. The 22-year-old is the first signing under the joint-management of Thorpe and Male.

★★★

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